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Candidates rally for SGA debates

SGA, SCCOCC hopefuls gear up for today's elections

By Scott Greene
Staff Writer

Prospective candidates for the positions of Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCCOCC) and Student Government Association (SGA) president came together to discuss smoking, on- and off-campus social life as well as diversity in the annual SGA Candidate Debate held in the new library on Sunday evening. The debate, broadcast live on WRMC and open to all students, gave the candidates the chance to distinguish themselves from their competition before voting takes place on April 20 and 21.

Presidential candidates Alex Stanton '07 and first-year Alina Levina, along with SCCOCC candidates Annie Williams '07, Ryan Tauriainen '08 and first-year Feb Mike Tierney spent 90 minutes answering questions and clarifying their prospective campaign platforms, though they shared similar opinions on many issues. The session primarily involved questions from a two-man panel consisting of Opinions Editor Jack Lysohir '08.5 and WRMC DJ Starrett Berry '09. The panel addressed the candidates with questions for the first hour before drawing questions from the audience.

The issue of several candidates' limited experience dominated a large portion of the debate. Levina defended her status as a first-year, claiming that it would not be a hindrance to effectively running the SGA.

"I'm a freshman with fresh ideas," she answered, claiming that her early connections with Dean of the College Tim Spears and Middlebury College President Ronald D. Liebowitz have empowered her and assured her of her ability to work with the College's administration and make a positive impact.

Stanton countered by highlighting his three years of experience on the SGA.

"I think that fresh ideas are really important in student govern-

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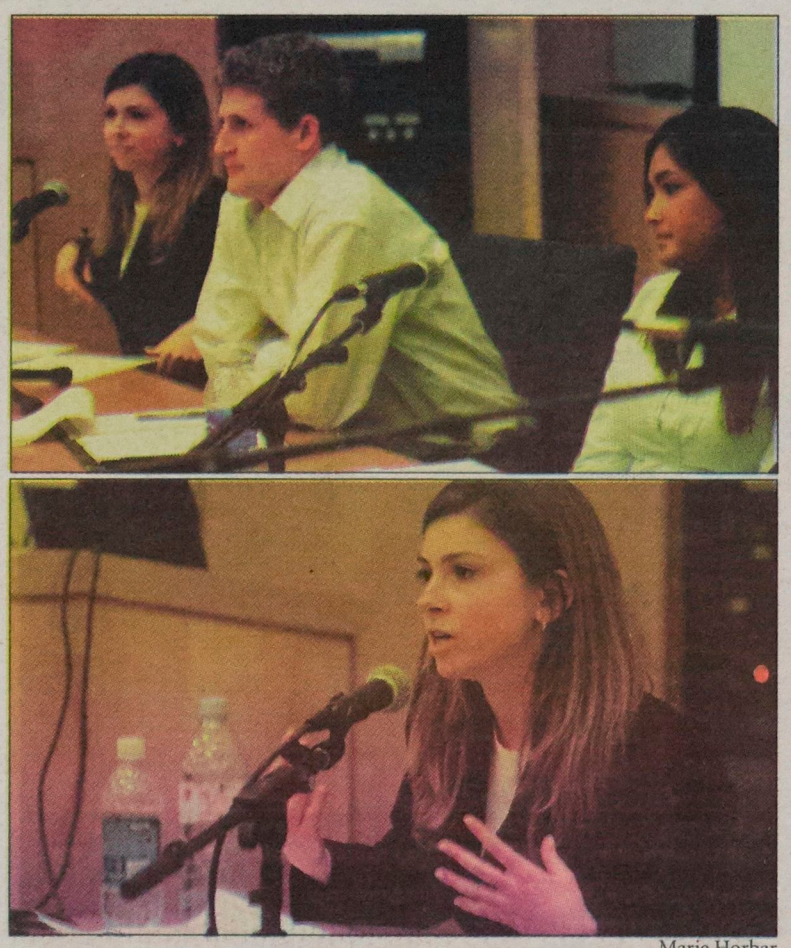


Marie Horbar

SGA presidential candidates Alina Levina '09 and Alex Stanton '07 and SCCOCC candidate Annie Williams '07 field questions at Sunday's debates.

College receives $20 mil.

By Elizabeth Campbell
Staff Writer

An anonymous donor has pledged $20 million to Middlebury in response to the challenge established by an anonymous $50 million gift almost two years ago. The donor, wishing to remain anonymous, is identified only as a Middlebury Trustee family who has long been devoted to Middlebury and its mission. This donation comes in the wake of several other recent anonymous gestures of philanthropy.

The commitment was made in anticipation of the May Board of Trustees meeting and, combined with the $50 million pledge, will be directed toward the principal goals of the Strategic Plan. "This is a big step toward achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan that the College has outlined," said Vice President for College Advancement Mike Schoenfeld '73. "This commitment will really be directed toward the major plans that the Trustees will be looking at in their meeting in May."

Specifically, the donation will apply to the top two priorities of the Plan — increasing financial aid and hiring new faculty. These goals are intended to increase socio-economic diversity and to decrease the student-faculty ratio in order to make the College more competitive in the future. This new commitment will allow Middlebury to hire eight new faculty members over the next few years, nearing the goal of ultimately hiring 25 new members.

By increasing financial aid packages, the pledge will also begin to reduce the amount of loans that many incoming students have to take out because of the elevating cost of tuition. While this long-term goal of the College is aimed at developing a more diverse student body, the financial aid program will be phased in over the next four years to more immediately help students from low-income families.

This will certainly give a much needed boost to the ambitious goals in the Strategic Planning Report, outlined at the end of January. According to the final chapter of the Plan, the endowment must increase by $392 million in order to fully implement the most important recommendations — financial aid, faculty enlargement and eventual completion of the commons infrastructure.

"This is a great amount of money to donate and is a great commitment to the College," said Schoenfeld. "It represents a real vote of confidence in what we aim to do in the future."

MPD investigates assault reports

By Caroline S. Stauffer
Editor in Chief

The College's Public Safety log for the week of April 5 through April 9 reported two incidents of sexual assault in the early morning hours of Saturday, April 1. Both incidents allegedly took place in Prescott (Delta House), and are undergoing an investigation conducted by the Middlebury Police Department, headed by Patrol Officer Vegar Boe.

Boe said both reports are allegations of sexual assault, or "the more common word of rape."

According to Boe, neither alleged victim had filed charges against the alleged violator at press time.

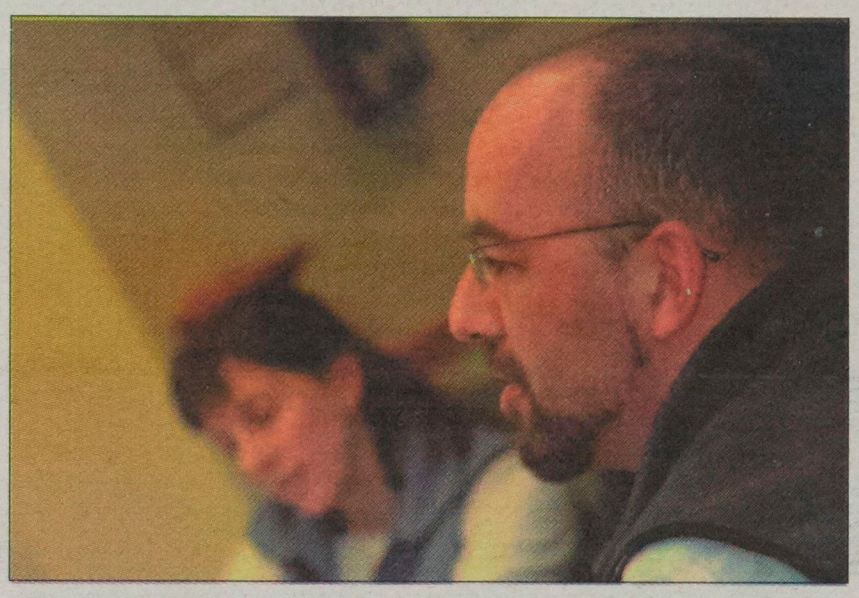
"In allegations of this nature," Boe said, "the Addison County State Attorney's Office is made aware of the allegations, and we then review the case with them." "They decide which, if any, actions are appropriate for the accused," he continued.

Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah said she could not provide any additional information on the College's own investigation because if its confidentiality.

President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz did not respond to specific questions, but said, "The safety and security of students, along with protecting the privacy of those involved, is of crucial importance and the College will take all necessary measures to determine the facts and take appropriate action."

Boe noted that his is an "Ongoing investigation; we hope to have it wrapped up sooner rather than later and in front of the state attorneys for their review."

HRC discloses diversity recommendations



Vlad Lodoaba

Staff members discuss HRC recommendations at an open forum on Monday.

By Kathryn Flagg
News Editor

Unveiling long-awaited and long-overdue recommendations on diversity at Middlebury College, Director of the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life Augustus Jordan announced last Thursday in an e-mail to the College community that the Human Relations Ad-Hoc Committee had completed its preliminary draft. The Report of the 2006 Human Relations Committee (HRC), which outlines 35 recommendations for the institution, marks a significant step towards notably enhancing and tackling the climate of diversity at the College.

Of the report's recommendations — all 35 of which Jordan notes are important — the most sweeping and arguably crucial proposals call for changes in staffing, structural and critical incident protocols.

First and foremost, the report recommends the creation of a Dean of Institutional Diversity — an "expert in diversity," said Jordan, who chaired the HRC, "who would help us recruit and retain faculty, staff and students from underrepresented

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MIDDBRIEFS

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

ICICLE racks up energy savings for institution during April contest

Halfway through the month of April, the Inter-Commons Initiative to Consume Less Energy (ICICLE) has saved the College over $1,000. The month-long event, organized by Bobby Levine '08 in conjunction with several on-campus organizations, encourages students to reduce energy consumption by facilitating inter-commons competition.

Leading the way in conservation efforts, Atwater Commons has saved the College nearly $500. Close behind, Ross Commons has saved over $300, while Wonnacott and Brainerd Commons currently hover near the $100-savings mark. Trailing the pack, Cook Commons has actually increased energy spending for its dormitories, as compared to past April spending accounts, by $13.

In order to facilitate energy conservation, ICICLE organizers recommend utilizing free compact fluorescent light bulbs, which are available in commons offices, as well as hibernating or turning off personal computers and laptops. ICICLE's Web site also stresses the importance of turning off lights when leaving the room, coining the popular and pithy phrase, "do it in the dark."

The members of the winning commons will, at the end of the month, participate in a commons ice cream and pizza party, as well as a raffle event. Prizes include a Fusion messenger bag with an integrated solar panel, carbon offsets from TerraPass for to account for emissions from students' automobiles and a signature ICICLE jumpsuit.

PSLA dinner recognizes student volunteer efforts at 13th annual

Middlebury College celebrated the public service efforts of its students on Tuesday, April 11, honoring 39 nominees for excellence in volunteerism and ultimately recognizing nine students with special commendation. The event, which marked the 13th annual Public Service Leadership Award dinner, included a keynote address from Carrie Williams '00, as well as remarks from Dean of the College Tim Spears.

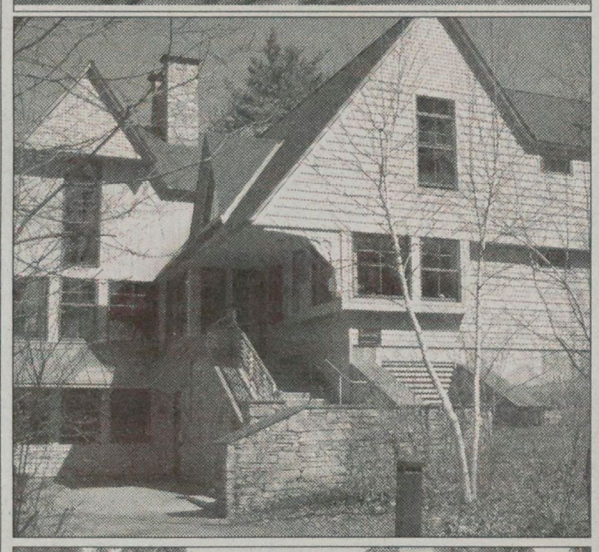
Following remarks from the speakers, as well as the announcement of all nominees, four awards were bestowed for exceptional service: the Public Service Leadership Award, the John M. McCardell, Jr. Award for Public Service, the Bonnie McCardell Award for Public Service and the newly-created Dana Morosini Reeve '84 Memorial Public Service Award. Each award was accompanied by a $300 donation made by the College on behalf of each award recipient to the organization of the recipient's choice. In the event's 13-year history, over $21,000 have been donated.

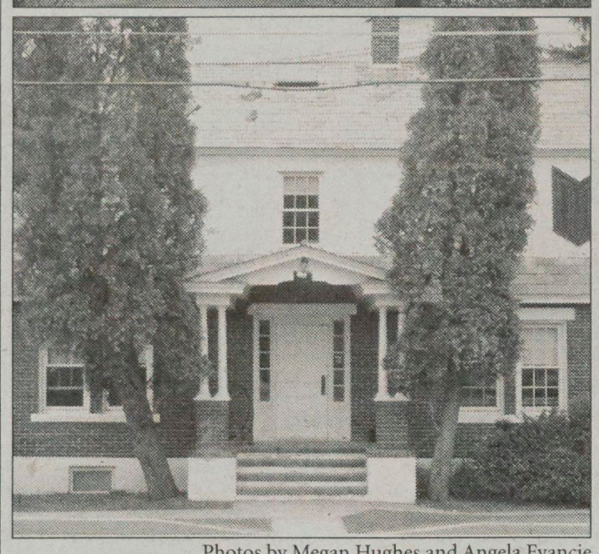
The six recipients of the Public Service Leadership Award were seniors Ashley Calkins, Thomas Hand and Mary Mendoza, Katherine Hawkins '06.5 and sophomores Emily Peterson and Ashley Valle. Erica Goodman '06 received the third annual John M. McCardell, Jr. Award for Public Service, Jessica Cox '06 received the Bonnie McCardell Award for Public Service and Gillian May Boeve '06 received the first ever Dana Morosini Reeve '84 Memorial Public Service Award. All nine students were recognized for their outstanding volunteer work, which ranged from local endeavors with Addison County residents to national leadership in climate change awareness and environmentalism.

In addition to these particular award recipients, all 39 student nominees were called forward, recognized for their particular service endeavors and presented with a commemorative achievement certificate.

These annual awards were prompted in 1993 by Patrick Durkin '79, who continues to underwrite the program. Durkin was on hand in Vermont on April 11 to attend the awards dinner and congratulate and honor the students.

Social houses get green light





Photos by Megan Hughes and Angela Evancie

All five of the College's social houses — KDR, Delta House, Xenia, Tavern and The Mill, from top — were favorably reviewed in this year's Community Council inspection of the social house scene. All houses will continue to operate next year.

After annual consideration, Council approves operations

By Amy McCowan
Staff Writer

Completing its annual review evaluating each house's fulfillment of house missions, the Community Council Subcommittee on Social Houses recommended that all five of Middlebury's social houses continue operation in the 2006-2007 academic year.

The Subcommittee, consisting of Chair and Project Manager Tom McGinn, Elizabeth Schaumberg '06 and Antoinette Rangel '09, met with Delta (formerly ADP), Kappa Delta Rho (KDR), The Mill, Omega Alpha (Tavern) and Xenia in the fall and spring to review rush plans, reinforce the dry pledge and hazing ban policies and discuss each house's self-evaluation of its performance throughout the year. The houses are evaluated on their ability to meet College regulations pertaining to membership requirements, gender division, community involvement and damage charges, among other factors.

"I feel that our recommendations are very reflective of the conversations that we had with the social house members, and is not anything outrageous because all of the houses do a very good job of executing their goals as a house," said Rangel.

The Subcommittee's written report must be approved by Community Council before it is passed on to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz for final approval.

"We like to think of ourselves not as an oversight group, but as an observer for Community Council, to look at the system as a whole, what are the issues they're facing as a whole, how to let it serve the College social community better," said McGinn.

> **I believe that the report fairly represents the current state of the social houses and the challenges that lay ahead of them for the future.**
>
> **—Doug Adams**

Delta, formerly known as Alpha Delta Phi before its recent separation from the national chapter, was encouraged to develop a mission statement reflecting its new independence, congratulated on its increased community service involvement and told to continue to decrease dorm damage.

"This year, the social houses were all very successful in greatly reducing the amount of dorm damage within the houses — a stipulation of many from last year. We also addressed the guest list policy and its possible effects on the houses, their membership and participation levels," said Shaumberg.

The report congratulated KDR for overcoming the 2003 probationary period, largely through its strong community service involvement. KDR's greatest challenge, however, is filling house beds, as the older house must compete with improved housing options elsewhere on campus.

The Mill was criticized for its lack of house participation in the College community, a shortcoming the house recognizes and is working to remedy. The house requested a new kitchen and installation of the enhanced access system.

"The request to move our kitchen from the basement was made about four years ago, and has been approved for quite some time," said Mill President Dan Burke '06. "For whatever financial reasons, the College never finalized the plan to move the kitchen until this year, and I have been told that it will be installed over the summer months."

Xenia was also encouraged to participate in collective community service projects and to raise awareness for the house and its mission in the College and local community.

While the report surprised Xenia President Matthew Johnstone '07 — the Subcommittee discussion largely addressed issues surrounding the physical house and its use — he said the recommendations are fair and will be implemented in next year's plans. "We are thinking about next year and ways that we can meet both of those goals, perhaps by improving house participation in one particular charity or service project, perhaps by having at least one large, high-profile, public event on campus. It's on the radar for this coming fall," said Johnstone.

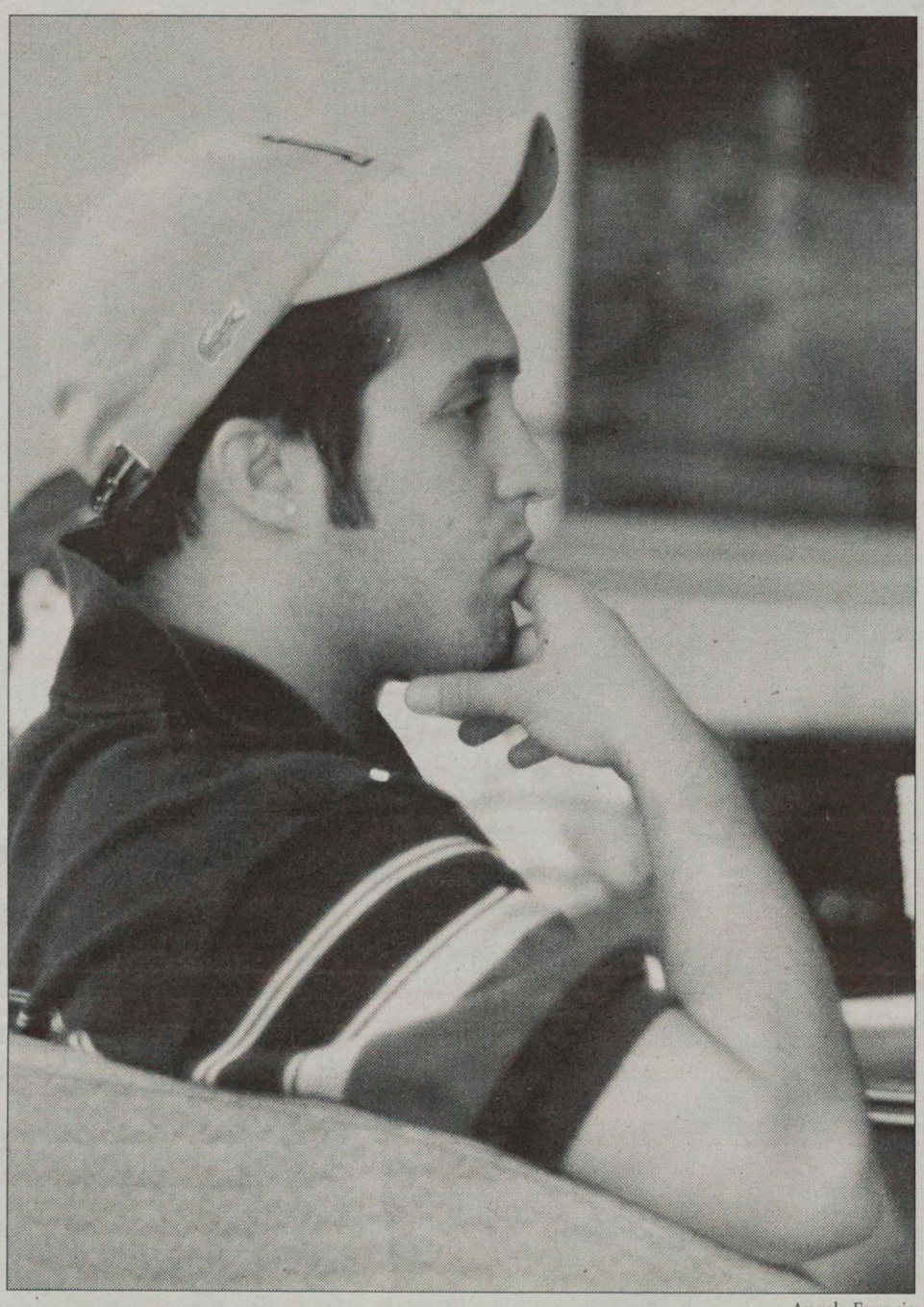
As a large house with 66 members, Tavern was commended for its strong membership involvement in community and College activities. Tavern is the only house with a community service requirement for all of its members.

Inter-House Commons Advisor Doug Adams, who assisted the Subcommittee, said, "I believe that the report fairly represents the current state of the social houses and the challenges that lay ahead of them for the future. I think the majority of the houses worked hard to address the stipulations applied by last year's Community Council."

Students drum up social life task force goals

By Dan Stevens
Staff Writer

The recently formed Social Life Task Force met again on Friday to continue its discussion of social life at the College. The administration formed the Task Force in response to a student call for changes at Middlebury. While the eventual goal of the task force is the presentation of a comprehensive, suggestive report to President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz, the group of students is still in its organizing and goal setting-stages. Friday's meeting included assigning Task Force members basic responsibilities and a continued discussion in which students debated and discussed in the hopes of identifying the root of the problem with social life on campus.



Angela Evancie

Marco Casas '07 ponders potential goals for the Social Life Task Force, which convened Friday afternoon in Forest East Lounge. Students are soon expected to fully direct the task force.

Dean of the College Tim Spears and Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson represented the administration at the meeting. Spears and Hanson, true to their claim that they were present only to offer support, turned the meeting over to the students within the first 10 minutes.

In discussing the goals for the Task Force, the students quickly sought to address the main problems concerning social life. Marco Casas '07 suggested that the students start their discussion about residential parties and "why they aren't working." Other topics of discussion included the importance of alcohol as a part of social life, and the 21-year-old divide at social events.

The Task Force also developed the idea of the creation of a Segue site that would include feedback from students concerning the role of social life at the College. The students noted the long-term goals of the task force which included speaking with Director of Public Safety Lisa Boudah, a patrol officer from Public Safety and the Middlebury Police Chief Tom Hanley.

Esther Guidos '08 addressed the degree to which Public Safety might be involved in the social life reforms to occur at Middlebury. "We could ask [Public Safety] what they see as the problems going on at Middlebury. We can have them tell us where they are coming from." Casas also mentioned the need for meeting with the Chief of Police along with Public Safety to find out exactly which reforms were possible and which were simply off the table. Micah Gurard-Levin '07 suggested that the Task Force first determine the exact nature of the problem. "I think we need to identify and put into words exactly what is wrong with social life at Middlebury," he said. The group outlined how this would provide the foundation for detailing necessary reforms.

"I think this is harder and more abstract, but we also need to address the alternatives to alcohol at Middlebury, because there are a lot of opportunities," said Sam Temes '07.

Gurard-Levin responded by discussing the problem inherent in viewing non-alcohol related activities as alternatives and not as a *bona fide* avenue for social life in their own right. "That might be the truth, but that might, in fact, be the problem: that we consider not drinking the alternative. That marginalizes people who decide not to drink," he explained. Members also discussed the prospect of inviting the president of Xenia, the College's substance-free social house, as well as other student leaders that deal with social life at Middlebury to participate in the Task Force's discussions.

After raising these issues, the task force then met with a representative from Tufts University. Ricardo Jordan, a grad student at Tufts, works in the student activities office as a coordinator of the Tufts Events Staff, which is responsible for supervising school-sponsored events.

"When the party starts, we deal with two things — the safety of the environment and the safety of the students," Jordan told the task force. Jordan explained that the Event Staff acts as a mediating force between the Tufts University Police Department and the student body. "It's more comfortable to have students supervising the parties then to have TUPD walking through with their big hats and making everyone nervous." Responsibilities of the Events Staff include checking IDs at the door and deterring anyone from bringing outside containers into an event.

Several members of the task force responded positively to developing a similar system at Middlebury. The Task Force explicitly addressed the problem of getting under-21 students to attend parties with alcohol for those of age. Jordan mentioned that this is largely not a problem at Tufts, but most of the events he supervises are for large parties — similar to the Middlebury Winter Ball or Orange Crush in Ross dining hall. The Events Staff also supervises cultural shows and other events that are registered by student organizations.

Many task force members were optimistic about bringing a Tufts-like Events Staff to Middlebury. "Having an Events Staff member actually checking IDs as opposed to someone in the party's sponsoring organization would dramatically improve relations with Public Safety," Temes said.

The Task Force will continue its meetings through the rest of this semester and into next year, when they hope to present a report to President Liebowitz that will serve as an impetus for change and improve the nature of social life at Middlebury.

Fans in the stands

Albert Bitici

Cheering on the Middlebury Panthers at a recent lacrosse game, members of a Rutland youth lacrosse team show their support at Youngman Field at Alumni Stadium.

COLLEGE SHORTS

BY POLLY JOHNSON

Arrests made in Duke lax scandal

In another twist in the Duke lacrosse scandal, two Duke University lacrosse players were arrested early Tuesday morning on charges of raping and kidnapping an exotic dancer who was hired to perform at an off-campus party in early March. The two students are Reade Seligmann and Collin Finnerty, both 20.

It has not yet been released what possible evidence led the grand jury to indict the two students, although it was noted that there was "photographic evidence." Durham District Attorney Mike Nifong would not discuss any of the evidence. Both Seligmann and Finnerty have posted $400,000 bonds.

Larry Moneta, vice president of student affairs at Duke University, posted on Duke's News and Communications Web site, which has been the main source of information for updates on the scandal, that under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the University is prohibited from releasing information regarding student disciplinary matters, but that historically it has been Duke's practice to issue an interim suspension when a student is charged with a felony.

Defense attorney for one of the lacrosse captains Bill Thomas has already stated that neither of the indicted students, according to witnesses, was even at the party at the time of the incident.

DNA tests that were administered to 46 of the 47 team members failed to connect any of the team members to the alleged victim.

—Yahoo.com, Duke.edu

Tornadoes shake Iowa City, college

University of Iowa students are still reeling in the aftermath of the damage inflicted on Iowa City and parts of the campus by tornados that hit last week. This is the first instance in 35 years that a tornado has actually hit the campus, although the city is very accustomed to storm warnings. On campus, a parking garage was damaged and trees were downed. The damage in town was much worse — overturned cars, snapped traffic lights and torn-off roofs were just the beginning of the destruction. A sorority house, Alpha Chi Omega, was completely destroyed. The storm collapsed the third floor and peeled off an entire side of the house, as the sorority sisters took shelter in the basement of the house.

The storm generated winds up to 150 miles per hour. Elsewhere in Iowa, a Nichols woman was killed when five or six tornadoes passed through eastern Iowa.

—*The New York Times*

Students protest wages at UVA

Seventeen University of Virginia students who had occupied a campus building for four days in a protest against wages paid to university employees were arrested last Saturday evening.

Recently, college students across the nation have taken it upon themselves to demonstrate in the name of campus employees who they consider underpaid. Last year, when Georgetown University students staged a hunger strike lasting nine days, officials raised wages of university employees.

Currently the lowest hourly wage at the University of Virginia is $9.37, which is less than what is the minimum amount of $10.72 that students say is the necessary amount to support a family.

—Washingtonpost.com

Draft considers diversity climate

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

groups." Jordan stressed that this person would be responsible for evaluating, on a continuous basis, the atmosphere of diversity at the College — the very task undertaken this year by the HRC.

The report also makes significant recommendations for enhancing the academic integration of questions of diversity, envisioning the current PALANA intercultural center as a center rooted in academic endeavors. The draft calls for the establishment of a faculty director for the center responsible for exploring questions of the curriculum related to diversity issues. This person would also facilitate directly with student groups and centers on campus that deal with diversity.

"This might help facilitate work with the Scott Center, with Rohatyn Center, with Chellis House so that we might be coordinating together around issues that have to do with race, ethnicity, religion, gender and international issues," said Jordan.

The report also recommends that PALANA remain a residential center in some capacity, though it advocates retaining students who are doing independent research in issues pertaining to diversity or student leaders of campus diversity groups.

Though specific in their intent, Jordan noted that the exact ways in which these curricular and structural changes should take place are left open-ended in some parts of the report.

"As a committee we didn't want to over-prescribe how it all should work," he said, "but rather sort of set a vision of what we thought was needed with respect to the curriculum side of the campus."

Aside from these staffing and structural issues, the HRC directly confronted problems relating to communication with the campus regarding "critical issues" of race and diversity.

"What we've seen is that sometimes an event will happen on campus that has racial or ethnic or religious overtones to it, or people are concerned that it might," said Jordan. He noted that often the Department of Public Safety, the Dean of Student Affairs office and occasionally the judicial boards become involved in these incidents and that communication with the larger community is hindered by the lack of any existing protocol. Communication is further complicated by the need to protect the privacy of individuals involved in delicate incidents.

"We're a small community," he continued. "We expect to be informed, and yet sometimes that bumps up against confidentiality issues. We want to respect both sides of that divide."

The report suggests establishing a concrete protocol — a "critical incident protocol" — for gathering key administrators and College officials to talk about the ramifications of the event and determine the best way to inform the campus of these events.

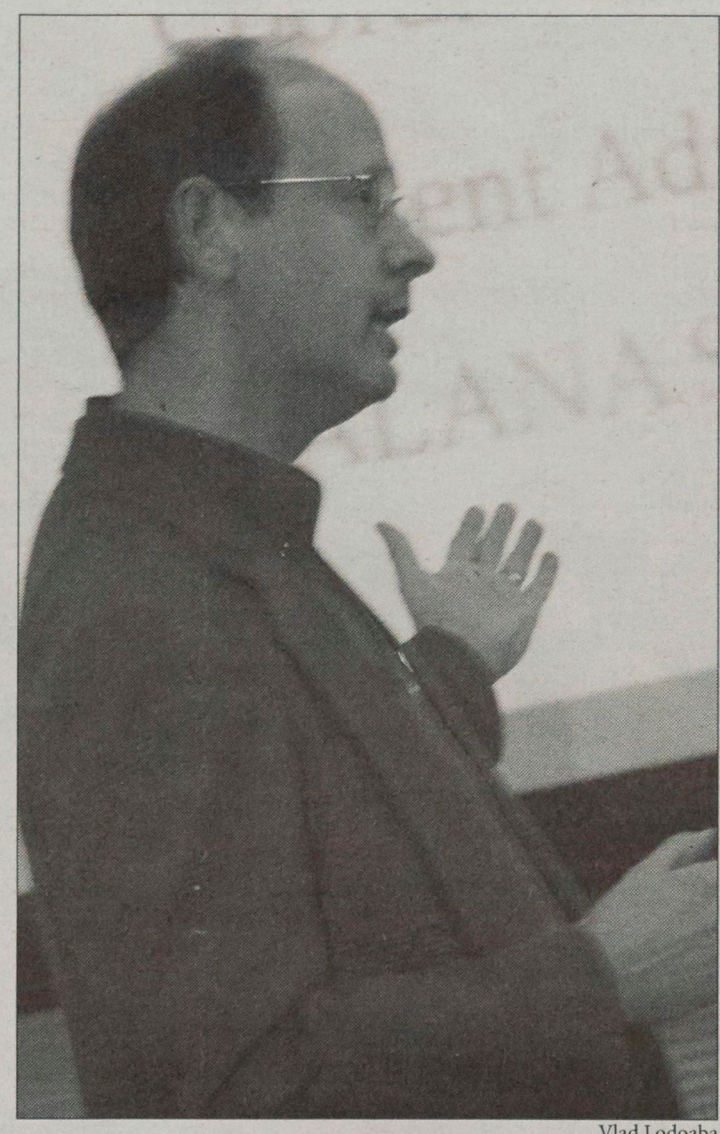
"You can't write a formula or write a rule that solves [the tension between protecting confidentiality and informing the College]," said Jordan, "because every case has unique components to it. The problem that we're experiencing now is that there isn't such a protocol. We're looking for a process that would help us as a campus move through that kind of incident."

In an effort to increase transparency, the report also calls for published reports at the end of fall and spring terms outlining, in a narrative summary, the number, nature and outcome of incidents classified as harassment.

Other recommendations in the report invite the faculty to explore programs of study in race and ethnicity, increased training for human relations advisers to provide support to those who experience harassment and increasing involvement for "underrepresented" persons in the recruiting, judicial, staff and faculty positions. All 35 recommendations, as well as the full text of the draft report, are available on the College's Web site.

These recommendations are the result of work done by HRC members spanning nearly eight months. Focus groups and interviews were held with staff members, students and faculty from various offices and student groups within the College, and two open meetings were held earlier in the year to solicit community input.

While the report does not strive to redefine the College's definition of diversity, and while the report also states that it makes the "glaring omission" of examining the status of women on campus, the response to the report has been largely positive.



Vlad Lodoaba

Chair of the HRC Augustus Jordan elaborates on the draft's recommendations at an open forum on the report on Monday evening.

"I think it's a very thorough, tremendous report," said Patti McCaffrey, president of the staff council, at one of the open meetings held Monday to solicit responses to the report.

The current HRC committee was assembled last fall at the request of President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz. According to Jordan, during the spring term "several incidents that happened on campus … alerted people that perhaps we should look at diversity issues again in a more formal way."

Prior to the mid 1990s, the HRC served as a standing committee. More recently, it was established as an ad hoc committee in 1999. "That followed some critical incidents that happened in '98, '97," said Jordan. According to Jordan and the current HRC report, several of the recommendations from the 1999 report were implemented successfully. Using the 1999 report as a point of reference for developing recommendations, the Committee was charged with revisiting these recommendations and evaluating the current campus climate on diversity.

While the HRC will convene again after the following two weeks of comment from the community, Jordan predicts that the report as it stands currently will not see any major changes. Furthermore, he hopes that the implementation of these recommendations will move smoothly — though the HRC itself will not oversee this part of the process.

"Our role in the process is to provide the recommendations to the president," said Jordan. He noted that once the final report has been delivered to the president's office, the task falls to the president's staff to carry out recommendations and delegate responsibility.

"We've tried to provide enough detail so that people can get started," said Jordan.

public safety log

APRIL 14, 2006 TO APRIL 16, 2006

DATE	TIME	INCIDENT	CATEGORY	LOCATION	DISPOSITION
4/14/06	10:26 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/06	11:35 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/06	11:03 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Allen Hall	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/06	10:28 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Pearsons	Referred to Commons Dean
4/14/06	11:43 p.m	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Coffrin	Referred to Commons Dean
4/15/06	10:49 p.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Adirondack Circle	Referred to Commons Dean
4/15/06	1:02 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	The Mill	Referred to Commons Dean
4/15/06	12:56 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	The Mill	Referred to Commons Dean
4/16/06	2:35 p.m.	Intoxicated Person	MVAA	Adirondack Circle	Porter
4/16/06	1:55 a.m.	Intoxicated Person	Student	Battell Beach	Referred to Commons Dean
4/16/06	2:20 a.m.	Drug Violation	Pipe	Battell	Referred to Commons Dean
4/16/06	1:04 a.m.	Intoxicated Person	Student	College Street	Porter
4/16/06	1:34 a.m.	Alcohol	Possession by a Minor	Brackett (Tavern) (OA)	Referred to Commons Dean

Debates highlight smoking, social life issues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ment," he admitted, "but experience is also important."

All three candidates for SCCOCC dismissed their lack of experience. None of the three candidates has ever served on the Community Council, but Tierney claimed that this hasn't held him back at all.

Williams agreed, noting that current SCCOCC J.S. Woodward '06 never served on the Community Council before his election two years ago.

"I'm comfortable working with members of the faculty, staff and administration," she said, "and I think I'm the right candidate to broker compromise in the Community Council."

Tauriainen similarly downplayed the experience factor, saying that "being a member of this community makes you qualified."

When asked about the issue of smoking on campus, the candidates echoed the SGA's recent soft-radius recommendation, which suggests that "smoking be kept a respectable distance from entryways." All five students agreed, to some degree, with the moderate stance of the SGA.

"It's a slippery slope if we make rules about students participating in things that other people don't like," said Stanton. Levina concurred, emphasizing Middlebury's need for mutual respect.

"I think it's a difficult position for the SGA to limit people's activities on campus," she claimed. "The truth is, we can draw a line, and maybe that line is respect."

While all candidates touched on the notion of respect, SCCOCC candidate Michael Tierney presented an alternative in which certain doorways would be considered smoke-free and others would be open to smoking.

"I think that having certain regulated places fosters an environment where community is encouraged and we do have mutual respect," he said. Similarly, Tauriainen made clear his desire to mold Middlebury's rules after "the laws of the land."

"The soft-radius should only be a suggestion, and is really only necessary when it comes to residence halls," he said.

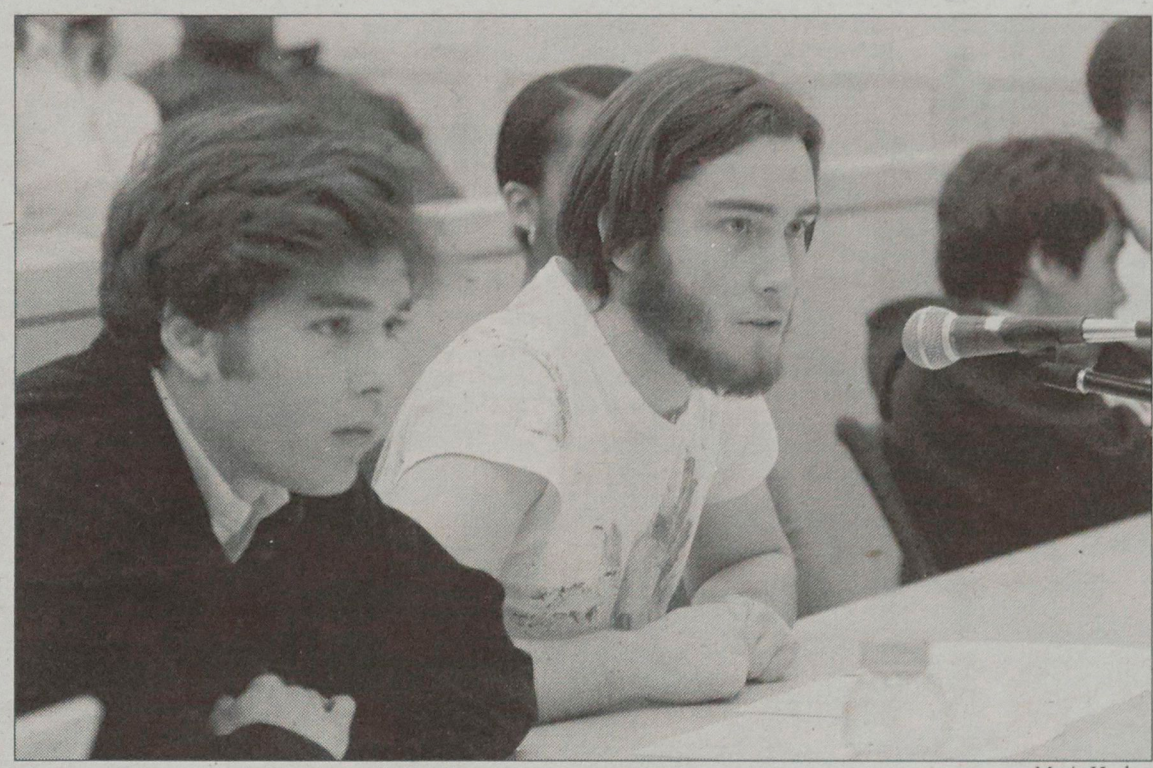
Much of the debate focused on the issue of "community" at Middlebury College, in terms of the vitality of on-campus social life and the commons system. On these issues, all five candidates agreed that more improvements could be made to Middlebury's on-campus social dynamics.

"We could do a lot more to get students interested in attending Commons-sponsored events," Williams suggested. "People need to start looking at them as a viable alternative to going off-campus."

The issue of off-campus social life surfaced numerous times, especially when the panel prompted those in attendance to ask questions. These questions revolved around the effect of the SafeRides program on the student body's newfound preference to party off-campus.

Tauriainen said that if elected, he would "push to make sure that the parties students are going to are on-campus," but he maintained that "to not promote the SafeRides would be an atrocity at this school."

Williams agreed. "I don't think SafeRides promotes off campus parties," she said, claiming that "there are many other things that already promote off-campus partying."



Marie Horbar

Jack Lysohir '08.5 and Starrett Berry '09 moderated the debates and solicited questions from the audience.

Presidential candidate Stanton defended off-campus partying, asserting that it is not necessarily a bad thing. "The problem with them," he said, "is when people start getting drunk and driving home."

However, his opponent strongly advocated a re-birth of the on-campus party.

"I want to have a committee made of social house members that will work to petition the law," Levina said, noting that the "guest-list" rule does not fairly account for college campuses. She added that drunk driving does not happen only with off-campus parties, citing that because KDR is far away from campus, many students drive to and from the house.

The candidates spent much of the session debating *with* each other rather than *against* each other, especially over the concept of diversity and racism on campus. An overwhelming majority of students feel Middlebury is too sensitive to political correctness, but the candidates defended this sensitivity.

"Sensitivity towards diversity is a good thing," Stanton maintained. "We can't become diverse and have a culture of respect without growing pains."

Tauriainen established a similar view. "We need not only to promote diversity but to promote tolerance," he added. "I think it is a testament to this school that we are sensitive to these issues, and I think there isn't a way to be overly sensitive to these issues."

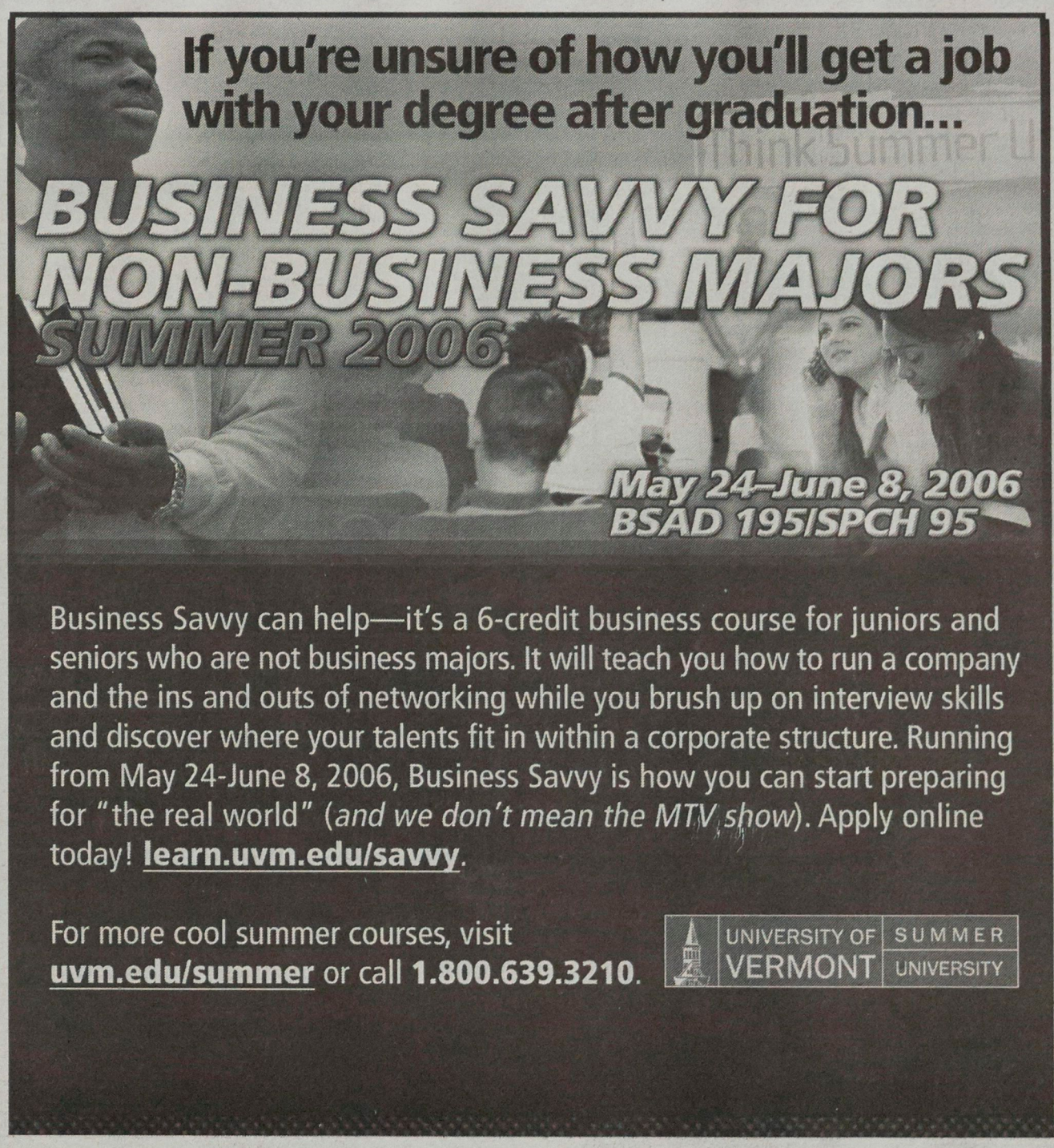
The debate provided those in attendance and those tuning in on radio with an opportunity to evaluate the potential of next year's student leaders. Stanton said he hopes that a lot of people took advantage of this opportunity and listened.

"Debates should be about the issues," Stanton said, observing that "It's a beautiful thing when you can see five students come together and argue towards progress."

NUTS ABOUT MIDD

Vlad Lodoaba

Munching on a spring treat, a well-fed squirrel surveys the scene on campus during prime people-watching hours as passers-by and prospective students peruse the property.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Middlebury brand gets a facelift

By Joshua Carson
Local News Editor

Megan Hughes

The Middlebury Business Association contemplates creating a unified brand for the town to be used in all stores.

The town of Middlebury needs a marketing facelift, according to the Middlebury Business Association (MBA). At an event last week, members of the MBA and a marketing expert presented a new proposal to the business community, calling for a more cohesive presentation of the goods and services offered to both the community and potential visitors.

The eventual goal is to develop a new 'brand' for the town, including a uniform phrase and logo to be used by all local businesses, and then promote the town as a place that "has it all" – shopping, retail, entertainment, worship and play. The Association members hope these goals can be accomplished through a marketing tactic know as branding, a term referring to the process of creating a favorable image of a product and differentiating that product from the competition in the eyes of the consumer. In this case, the product is the town of Middlebury and the consumer is everyone from the local residents and College students who drive to Burlington for basic retail needs to the tourist coming in from Connecticut to experience a slice of Vermont charm.

The ultimate objective of this campaign, as laid out by Battell Director Bruce Hiland, is fourfold: to promote buying locally, to make the town an appealing tourist destination, to establish the town as a vital part of campus life and to compel green employers to establish business.

In a speech to MBA members, former MBA President Ken Perine put the situation in context by looking back into the past and tracing the evolution of business in the town. In the 1950s, Middlebury was largely an agrarian economy with small local farmers supporting the shops in town. During the 1970s, however, focus shifted from agriculture to industry as manufactures like Kraft and Standard Register looked to Middlebury as a source of inexpensive labor, diversifying the landscape with small manufacturing enterprises. But the manufacturing base has scaled back and now, Perine said, Middlebury is transitioning to a service economy, facing competition from both at home and abroad.

> The eventual goal is to develop a new 'brand' for the town, including a uniform phrase and logo to be used by all local businesses.

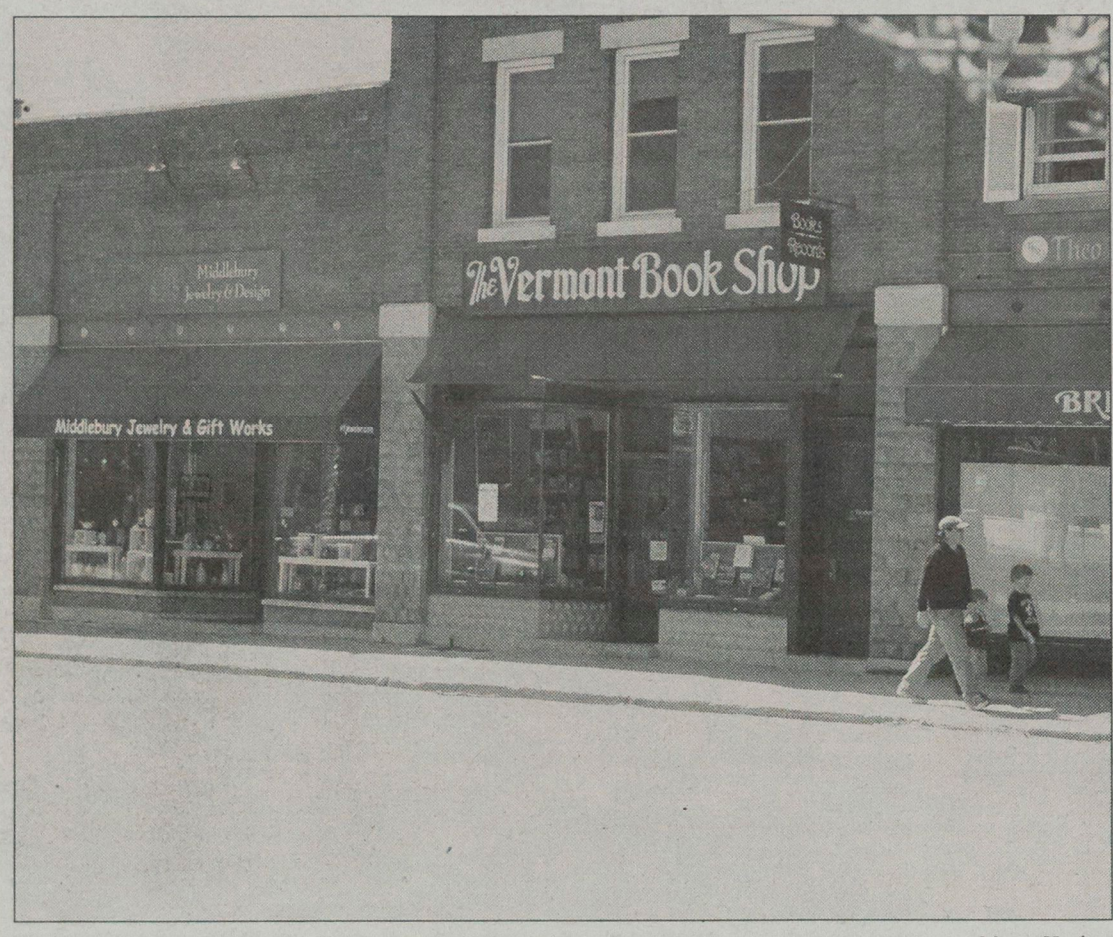
At this point, the branding campaign is in its very early stages, said President of the MBA Gail Freidin, as the MBA is just starting to identify values and images that will resonate with the target consumer. Freidin hopes that this can be accomplished with the aid of MBA members, rather than hiring an outside marketing firm.

Leading the branding discussion was Glen Ohlund of the New Hampshire Main Street Center, an organization which aims to promote economic development while maintaining the historic character of the downtown. Ohlund established a framework with which to begin the process of branding Middlebury, starting with assessing Middlebury's assets and then developing an image to be projected onto the consumer.

The impetus for the new campaign comes from sentiment within the business community that Middlebury is no longer the prime destination it once was for food and retail spending. When Ames moved out, said Freidin, there was a feeling that other local businesses lost out on spillover sales from consumers traveling to Middlebury. Moreover, she said, Middlebury is no longer the only destination for dining, with restaurants in Vergennes and Bristol becoming more and more popular.

Local business owners surveyed at the meeting, however know where to start. When asked to list the three largest challenges facing the Middlebury business community today, respondents cited parking, traffic and diversification of product offerings. The challenge, admits Freidin, will be to diversify the business offerings of the town, thus attracting a greater number of consumers. Yet she is optimistic that, despite space constraints, the community will be able to recruit new businesses and create new retail space downtown.

Strolling Down the Street



Megan Hughes

Strolling past businesses on the Town Green, a local man and his children enjoy the war weather. The Middlebury Business Association is working to develop a new trademark for all town businesses in order to make marketing the town's brand to tourists as well as locals easier. While the discussion is still in its infant stages, officials of the MBA are confident that they will be able to create a new brand for the town that will represent both the diversity of the businesses and restaurants and be able to attract a wide range of new customers to these establishments.

May Garden spices up social life

Restaurant reinvents itself, adapts to student demands

By Rachel Durfee
Staff Writer

Is there a new Wednesday night hot spot for Middlebury students? It looks like there could be. This past Wednesday, college students headed to May Garden, a Chinese restaurant located in Marbleworks, where, for a $5 cover charge, they received one free beer and unlimited free appetizers. Anywhere else it may seem strange, but in a small town like Middlebury where options are limited, students seem more than willing to flock to any establishment that provides a good draft deal and space to house college kids.

Since another local watering hole, Mr. Up's, famed for its Wednesday night dollar drafts, changed operations after being penalized by the liquor inspector in March, College students have been searching for a new place to let loose mid-week. In early April, the owner of May Garden, who goes by the name of Davy and has owned and managed the restaurant since October 2005, was chatting with some Middlebury students about the recent Wednesday night dilemma. The students asked if they could come to the restaurant that Wednesday with some friends to have drinks and socialize. Around 60 people showed up and after the success of that night, the idea for last Wednesday's entrepreneurial evening was born.

> We would love to keep this going for the rest of the year and hope that it has a positive effect on Davy's business.
>
> —Elizabeth Clayburgh '06

Three College students ran the bar, serving dollar bottles of beer and three-dollar well drinks. When the bottles ran out later in the evening, students sipped contentedly out of dollar cans of Pabst Blue Ribbon. The crowd eventually spread out from around the bar into the restaurant area, where people could group around large tables. Davy was visible throughout the evening, enthusiastically passing around Chinese appetizers like "Chinese pizza" and sharing a grin with every customer.

Jamie Wong '06, one of the bartenders and a server at May Garden, described the evening as "really fun" and the clientele as "very respectful." Fellow bartender Elizabeth Clayburgh '06 said, "It was good to see a crowd out on Wednesday night again. We would love to keep this going for the rest of the year and hope that it has a positive effect on Davy's business."

The restaurant remained open until about 2 a.m. with no major problems. Next week will see some changes, such as the elimination of glass bottles, an additional bouncer and perhaps a wider offering of drinks at slightly steeper prices. There may also be a student DJ. The goal, however, stresses Davy, is not to make money on a Wednesday night or to turn May Garden into a bar. His main objective is to promote his restaurant and draw a bigger crowd from the College for the food side of the business. His hope is that Middlebury students will come in on a Wednesday night, have a good time and then return to the restaurant for meals and take-out.

The restaurant has taken measures to keep out underage drinkers and prevent people from taking their drinks outside. It has also posted the restaurant's capacity and buys all alcohol through a distributor.

Courtesy

Enjoying drink specials and free appetizers, Middlebury students have begun to flock to the May Garden to socialize on Wednesday evenings.

Despite difficulty cleaning the carpets the day after his Wednesday night extravaganza and pointing out nicks in the woodwork where students opened beer bottles, Davy remains as friendly a host as ever, saying he hopes to make Wednesday nights at May Garden a basically volunteer, student-run operation — "by students, for students." Wong says she didn't volunteer for the money (she and fellow bartenders Clayburgh and Sakel Heng '07 made only about $17 in tips), but to help Davy out and keep the venture fun yet manageable. Davy was quite happy with the evening's turnout, saying with his now-famous grin, "I want kids to have a good time and enjoy life."

THE LOCAL FLAVOR

By Sean Breen
Staff Writer

After indulging in a cupcake from Magnolia Bakery in New York's West Village over the Easter weekend, I began reflecting on precisely what it takes to excel at baking. Fortunately I do not have to look far, because the Otter Creek Bakery epitomizes what to me defines a terrific bakery. To begin with, it is local. Opening at 6 a.m. and closing at 6:30 p.m., Otter Creek runs on two shifts and only a few visits will grant you a welcoming and familiar smile. Regulars often comment on the location as being one of Otter Creek's most important features. Situated just before the Otter Creek Bridge in downtown Middlebury, it is perfectly positioned for students who are sick of the dining hall but do not want to hike very far down Main Street.

But location is never enough — what differentiates Otter Creek, and what constitutes the foundation of any good bakery, is the quality of its products. Otter Creek Bakery buys only the best ingredients and does so almost exclusively from small local farmers and butchers. The reason is simple: amazing cuisine is only made with amazing ingredients — ranging from buttery brie imported from France and ripe avocados from California to Vermont turkey and creamy chevre cheese.

What is more, Otter Creek is innovative. Besides boasting what is probably the best bread in Vermont, Otter Creek offers a variety of savory cookies and pastries. If one is visiting in the morning hours, the honey cornmeal scone is an absolute must, as is the blueberry-oat muffins. During lunchtime, not much (absent a flight to France) can rival Otter Creek's baguettes with a wedge of brie. The custom sandwich list are also extensive and delicious. Made on their own bread and with cold cuts and veggies from local butchers and farmers, the sandwiches are heavenly whether you are a vegetarian, a "turkey-only" type of person or a die-hard Italian sub groupie, such as my roommate. My personal favorite is the "West Coaster," which consists of fresh-roasted turkey breast, avocados, sprouts, jalapeño havarti cheese and sun-dried tomatoes. Otter Creek also offers daily specials, soups and salads. Their hummus is famous among Middlebury locals, quite an accomplishment considering the often accurate stereotype of the town's patrons. Otter Creek even offers daily changing "flatbreads," made throughout the day with the freshest possible ingredients and changing with the seasons.

Nor should one stop after enjoying only a sandwich — like any good bakery, Otter Creek's biggest selling point is its dessert selection. From decadent chocolate tortes, lemon tarts and confected fruit pies to white-chocolate chunk cookies, classic maple-oatmeal raisin cookies and homemade truffles, all customers will find something to suit their tastes.

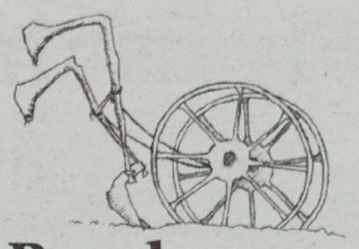
Otter Creek is truly a special place. Any Middlebury student who passes four years here without at least sampling the goods is making a serious mistake and is missing out on one of Vermont's unique institutions. Located just steps off campus at the intersection of Rt. 30 and Rt. 125 in the center of Middlebury, there is no excuse. With the spring sun rapidly approaching, everyone should be heading down to Otter Creek for a sandwich, a treat and a taste of Vermont.

Reviewer Recommends

Baguette with brie

West Coaster

Italian Sub



Rural Banter

BY ERICA GOODMAN

Vermont has always seemed a friendly and inviting state. Amiable neighbors smile as you pass on the street, people are constantly holding doors open and drivers halt at every crosswalk to let pedestrians and women with baby carriages safely cross. New York Staters, on the other hand, have long been marred by the myth that there is no more to the state than the city and with the reputation of dwellers of the five boroughs as obnoxious and dangerous drivers. So, in Nov. 2003, the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles took a hint from its Green Mountain neighbors and passed a yield-to-pedestrians law. Motor vehicles have since been required by law to slow down or stop for any person crossing at any part of a crosswalk.

The city had no problem adjusting to the new traffic requirement. Traffic in the city of over eight million people has long been regulated by zebra-striped crosswalks and lit hands counting down the time until the line of cars will go. The transition to common courtesy for motor vehicles in the less densely populated areas of the state has, on the other hand, been a much more complicated task. In villages that boast a lone traffic light and a handful of stop signs, most drivers simply coast down main streets in hopes that they have properly timed their trips to pass by as the light turns green. These drive-thru towns certainly see cars pass, yet few people actually ever stop except to fill up on gas.

This drive-thru mentality has proved problematic for some towns as New York State has sought to enforce the new traffic policies. One village has even instituted a system of strategically placing orange flags at both ends of the crosswalks. In theory, pedestrians are supposed to grab a flag, wave it wildly in the air as they cross, and replace the flag in the opposing receptacle after they have made it safely across the street. But only elderly men and children on bikes that still have training wheels ever use the flags, so motorists continue to narrowly miss the pedestrians they are supposed to be watching out for.

In the battle to control the crosswalk, even dwellers of rural America are holding strong to their gas-guzzlers. Walking to school or the post office is really only an option for villagers. Since no one owns a horse and buggy anymore, the easiest way to get into town is to jump into a car and drive there. Rural life is far from slow, especially on the flat country roads that often serve as drag racing tracks for rambunctious teenage boys. Some kids even take to the field, attaching anything from a snow tube to a hot tub to the back of a truck and riding across bumping cornfields. So goes local entertainment. Even those who stop rather than just drive through town, the adjustment toward full pedestrian yielding is taking time. So walkers beware, or at least suck up your pride and wave the orange flag.

Fly fishing casts off in rivers across Vermont

By Caitlyn Olson
Staff Writer

Fly fishing seems simple enough. Take a stick with some string attached to it and throw the fuzzy doo-dad at the end of the string in the water. Following this line of thinking, though, a person might as well reduce football to a bunch of spandexed men crashing into each other. There are numerous factors to consider when fly fishing — rod, fly, location, technique — and each consists of myriad nuances that make for a sport so complex that, as President of the New Haven River Anglers John Synnott said, "You never really master it."

It should come as no surprise that the sport is so sophisticated, since it has had plenty of time to grow and evolve. The first record of fly fishermen dates all the way back to the second century, when the Roman Claudius Aelianus observed Macedonians casting red wool into the Astraeus River. Reappearing in its modern form in Scotland and northern England, the activity quickly spread to North America, where the Catskill Mountains of New York proved to be particularly suitable. Vermont and Maine were the sites of a peak in popularity in the 1920s, which was at least partly due to Ernest Hemingway's glorification of fly fishing in books like "The Sun Also Rises."

Although the basics have remained constant throughout the years, a certain degree of modernization has taken place. Rods, for instance, were traditionally made from bamboo in a delicate process that could take up to 100 hours. (Anglers consider them such works of art that a rod crafted by a master can sell for well over $2,000.) On the other hand, modern rod-making materials are often graphite or fiber glass. Strength is important since rods are at a minimum six feet long and can reach lengths of 14 feet. Another necessary characteristic is flexibility, since fly fishing involves a good deal of waving the rod back and forth.

There are a variety of techniques, but the procedure basically consists of whisking the rod above one's head between the 10 o'clock and two o'clock positions. This motion is called "false casting" and serves to "load" the tip with an energy that travels the length of the rod to establish distance and control. Finally, the angler uses the weight of the line to fling the fly into the water.

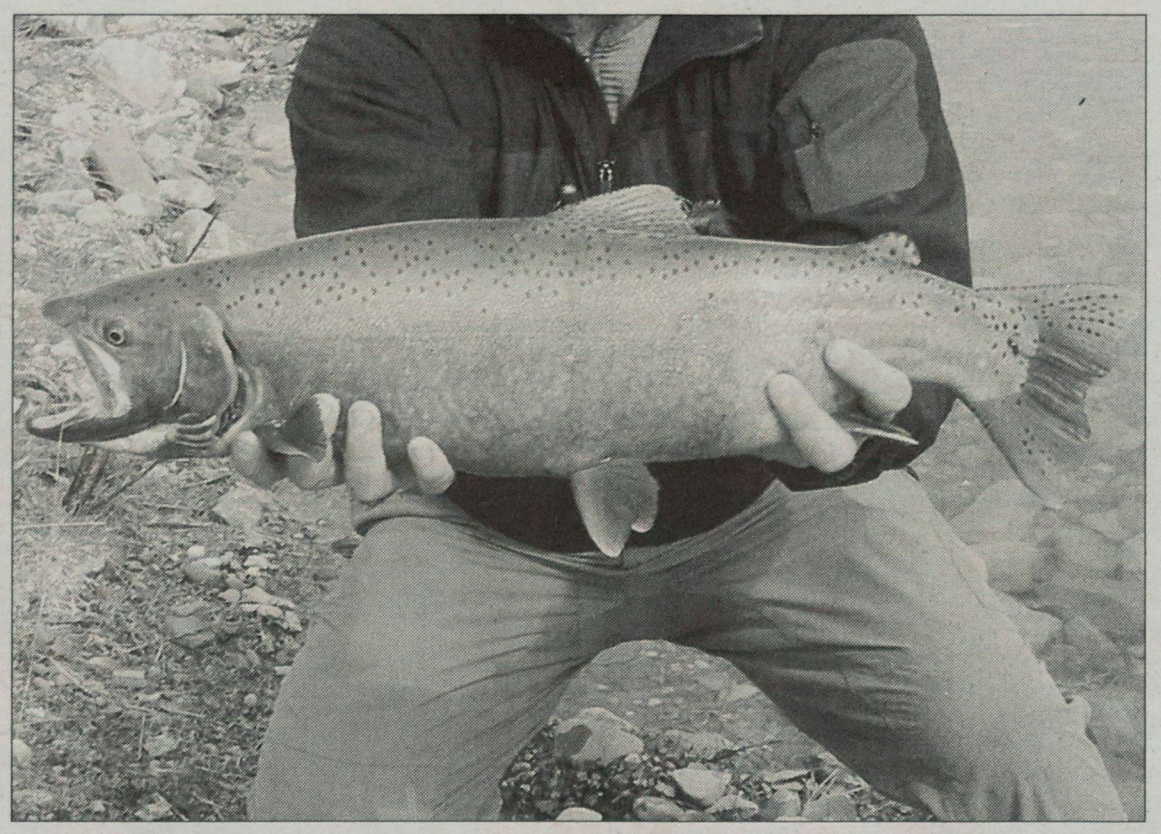
Flies represent another category containing a great level of variance. All are virtually weightless, but they can come in almost any color and consist of substances ranging from thread to fur to feathers. Their purpose is to act as either an "imitator," mimicking the naturally occurring food, or an "attractor," rousing excitement or anger in the fish. Other distinctions delineate dry flies (floating on the water's surface) from wet ones (sinking beneath the surface). While it is easy to purchase flies, many anglers enjoy crafting their own, including Synnott, who describes fly selection as "part of the fun."

"Very soon the Lewis Creek is going to fill up with big-small mouth bass so my favorite fly will be a bright white Wolly Bugger. After that there will be a Hendrickson hatch (big brown mayfly) so the Hendrickson will be my favorite fly. Later in the summer I will have fun fishing grasshopper patterns," he said.

As for the fish themselves, the most common species in this region is trout, mainly brook, rainbow and brown. Endangerment of certain species does not appear to present as much of a problem on this coast as it does out West. Type of fish is the primary determinant in what a fisherman looks for in an ideal site, although there are some characteristics that remain fairly constant no matter the species.

"Prime conditions would be a nice clean river, good current (not too strong) with lots of rocks and a gravely bottom. There would be a couple of deep pools and some cover along the banks," Synnott said.

While anglers are happy to talk about location in a general sense, they are much less willing to divulge the names of specific places. Synnott admitted that he is fond of the Neshobe River in Brandon/Forestdale and the Dog River in Northfield. Professor of Computer Science and avid angler Matt Dickerson, on the other hand, was vehemently secretive: "I'd tell you, but then I would have to get one of those 'MEN IN BLACK' devices to erase your memory before you could print that information in the newspaper."



Courtesy

Jake Kuipers '06.5, head of the Middlebury College fly fishing club, shows off one of his latest catches.

Chances are his favorite spot is not in New England, as he finds that there is "nothing in particular" that is great about this region's fishing. Synnott, however, points out several attractive qualities.

"Out West the fish get bigger and there are more of them but you also have to travel a lot to get to each river. Here I can start my day at the Bagel Shop in Middlebury and hit any one of five different rivers within half an hour out of town. We also have smarter fish. These fish will test your skills. They say if you can catch trout in New England, you can catch them just about anywhere," he said.

Alex Gart '09 prefers the rivers of his home state of Colorado but acknowledges that Vermont's natural beauty makes it a pleasurable place to cast a line. An angler of nine years, Gart loves "the connection that you have with people, as a result of fly fishing, no matter who they are or where they are from." It therefore makes sense that he has continued with the sport upon his arrival at Middlebury, taking on the role of Spiritual Leader (Vice President) with MiddFly, the College's fly fishing club.

Founded in 2000, the club is hoping to become more active this year under the guidance of Chief Angler (President) Jake Kuipers '06.5 and its advisor, Dickerson. One goal is to become a national affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

Another aspiration is to revive a competition that used to happen in the 1950s among Middlebury, Harvard, Princeton and Yale in which the schools headed up to Nova Scotia to fish for giant tuna. Right now, though, it looks as if the furthest away the club is going to get is the West Branch of the Delaware River on an upcoming trip.

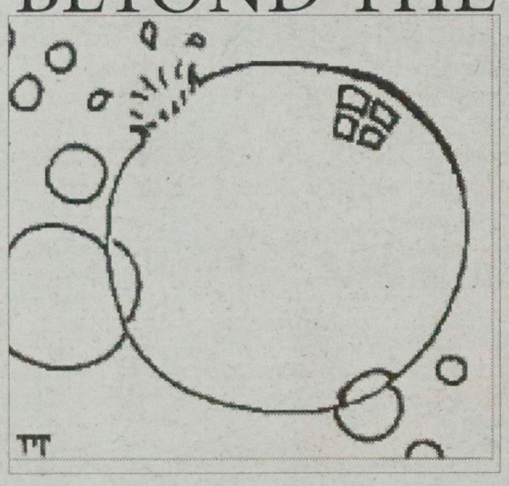
On-campus MiddFly activities range from weekly gear hours, free fly-casting clinics on Voter Lawn from 1:00 until 3:00 p.m. on Fridays, fly tying workshops, a planned speech by Dave O'Hara '91 on May 4 and guided trips to local rivers. The most popular ones around here are Middlebury River, New Haven River and Otter Creek. Middlebury Mountaineer in town and Field Sports on Rt. 7 South are good sources of information and gear.

And there certainly is an overwhelming amount of information and gear in which to get bogged down. The beauty of fly fishing, though, lies in the experience itself, and once a person discovers this aspect, the sport can become a way of life.

"I fish because it's in my blood . . . I kept track last year and I was in a river over 150 days. I think it's my natural environment. Maybe it's a womb thing — I need to hear water moving all around me. I have seen more things while out fishing than most people will see in their lifetime: fisher cat shadowing me across a stream, bobcat, almost stepping on a newborn fawn hidden in some rocks on a river bank, a peregrine pinning a swallow to the ground at my feet, moose, bear, beavers, otters, etc., all in their world," Synnott said.

Gart echoed his sentiments: "Fly fishing is a very meditative and relaxing activity. The rhythm of the casting motion combined with the peace and serenity of nature provide a very spiritual experience."

BEYOND THE BUBBLE



BY CLAIRE NIELSON AND LISIE MEHLMAN

This week, our never-ending quest for novelty and adventure in the VT led us, only because we were short on gas, not to Burlington, but, to the sometimes overlooked but remarkably quaint Shelburne. Claire and Lisie constantly (well, there was that one time) bemoan the fact that we have yet to visit the Shelburne Museum. It's right behind the Vermont Teddy Bear Factory on our to-do list. Except that we *will* actually go to the Teddy Bear Factory one day. Upon catching sight of the Shelburne General Store or, in Claire's case, the fudge on display in the General Store, we realized that, once again, the Shelburne Museum would be relegated to another rainy day (or another day when we are desperate for a place to write this column about. Because clearly today is not one of those days?)

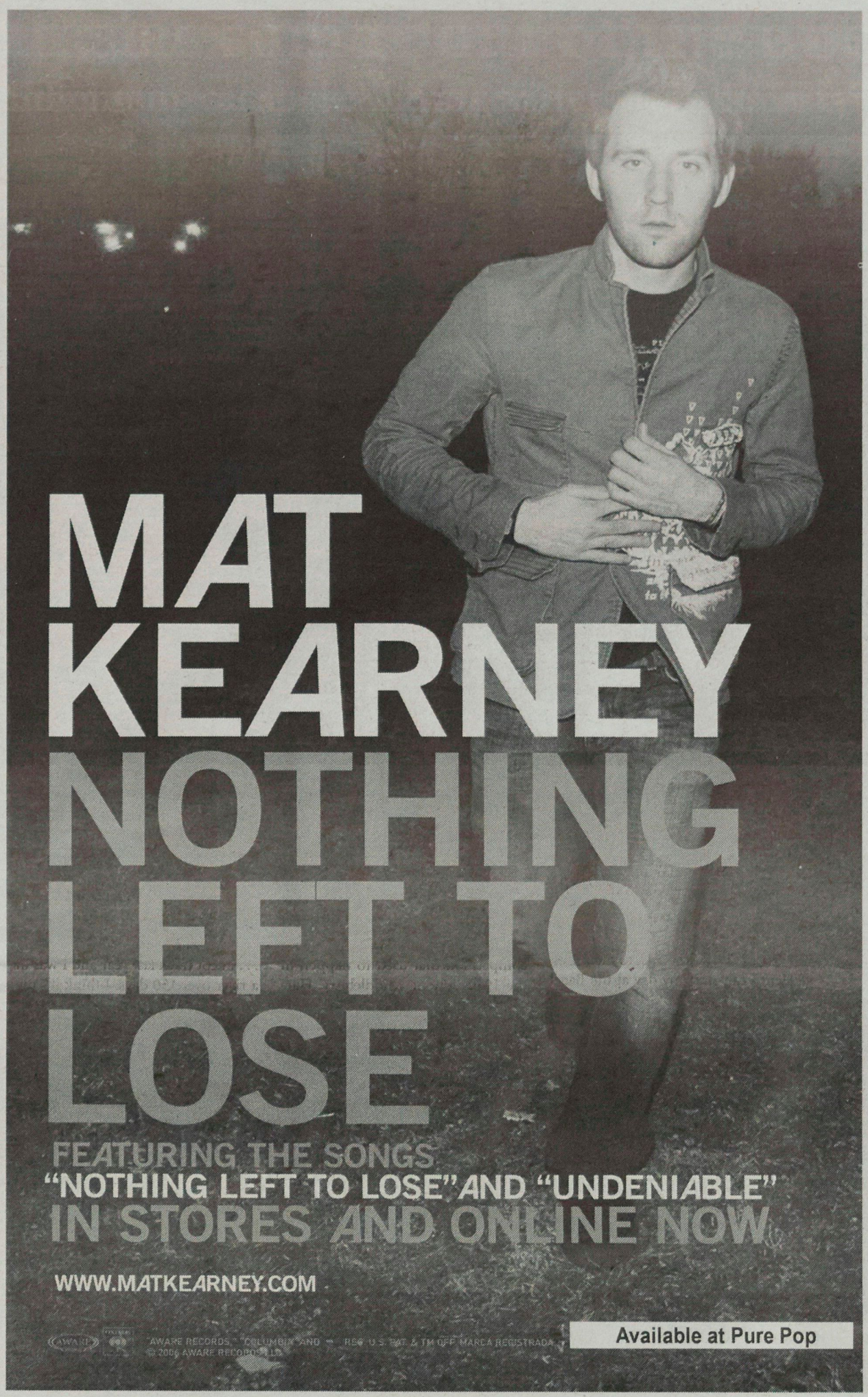
Oh was the fudge good. But fudge is a point of contention for Claire and Lisie because Lisie secretly resents how whenever we purchase fudge together (which, surprisingly, happens more frequently than you might suspect — most recently in Georgia. No, not at Chic-Fil-A.) Claire does a poor job of sharing. Apparently she wasn't good at it in kindergarten, either. It's Ok, neither was Lisie. But Lisie did go see Ms. Anchor, her special friend (read: social worker) and her condition (read: aggressive child) improved tremendously. The nickname "Spaz" seemed to wane by the end of third grade. That is one nickname she was glad to be rid of, although now the notion of getting nicknamed remains nothing but a pipe dream.

Not only did we consume fudge at the General Store, we also tried out an array of salsas and chutneys. We don't exactly know what chutney is. But we liked the mango variety. Then there were the penny candy bins. The striped candies somehow started Claire out on a ten minute stroll down memory lane. She reminisced about the days of yore (Claire demands that we clarify that, in fact, at this point in her life, she was a very small child), when she spent a delightful week in colonial Williamsburg, reliving, with strict regard for historical accuracy, life in an early American settlement. Yes, she wore era-appropriate garb. She also learned to weave and milk cows. At this point, Lisie interjected with, "Didn't you also go to space camp?"

Lisie continued to chide Claire's excitement towards the penny candy, claiming it would be gross to eat candy from a communal bin. Claire thinks it would be gross to live in a room where, without slippers, one worries about contracting any number of bacterial or fungal diseases (read: Lisie's room is a disaster. A neutral party recently recommended a shovel be obtained to begin the cleaning process.).

After perusing aisles of jewelry and incredibly out of season, and slightly discounted, Christmas supplies, we found the treasure of the General Store — its quilt collection. It put even the Nielson household to shame. Lisie deliberated purchasing a pretty pink one for her unborn child. Claire, whose domesticity always one-ups Lisie's (does anyone else remember the homemade Valentines of 2005?), declared that, of course, she planned on crocheting her unborn child an afghan. The J-Term knitting workshop incident of 2004 (Lisie was the only participant who did not walk away with a wearable hat. The issue was not its wearability, but whether one could really consider it a hat at all.) pretty much assures that Lisie will not be trying her hand at anything remotely artistic again. This of course excludes the obvious shadow boxes that do, and will continue to, adorn her place of residence.

If nothing else came out of the Shelburne trip, at least we found a place to go to fulfill our sporadic fudge (and mango chutney) cravings. And, Lisie acquired one more bullet point for Claire's future wedding speech: Colonial Williamsburg Camp.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opinions

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Editorials

Levina: leadership with long-range potential

What Alina Levina '09 lacks in experience she makes up for by her determined commitment to becoming the next Student Government Association (SGA) president. This past Sunday, Levina won over a room full of skeptics — *The Campus* Editorial Board — with her passion, professionalism and sustainable plan for the SGA.

Levina's primary strengths lie not necessarily in her specific platform — opponent Alex Stanton '07 actually does a better job of identifying a more feasible set of goals — but in her well-researched approach to the job. An accomplished first-year Posse scholar, Levina has already gone out of her way to make the administrative connections without which the SGA is powerless. Levina says that while on the bus to Middlebury for Posse orientation last September, before setting foot on campus, she was already discussing Middlebury with Vice President for College Advancement Mike Schoenfeld '73. She was the only candidate to emphasize her contact with President of the College Ronald D. Liebowitz in her presentation for *The Campus*.

Though she is very young, Levina has managed to make her age work to her advantage. She knows that clenching the SGA presidency as a rising sophomore would grant her two extra years to oversee long-term goals, either by running again as an incumbent or by helping future leaders in an advisory capacity. The fact that she herself has three more years left on this campus should provide Levina with additional incentive to work for school improvement. Though ironic considering her age, Levina's historical knowledge of the SGA is especially impressive. She cited and commented on issues SGA President Ginny Hunt '03 faced four years ago, when Levina was just entering high school.

As Co-Director of the SGA Diversity Committee, Levina has already confronted one of the issues of great concern for *The Campus* this year by helping to organize the recent Anti-Defamation rally that held in Mead Chapel.

We are also especially relieved to see that improving safety measures on campus, especially as pertaining to women, are a high priority for Levina.

Though we would like social life reform to be a more visible component of her platform, once asked, Levina's stance was well articulated. Levina says she will sign the SafeRides bill, recognizing the reality of off-campus parties, but remains primarily committed to reforming the on-campus scene.

Given the depth of the rest of her research, we were a little thrown by Levina's inability to answer specific questions, such as time and monetary requirements, about opening a dining hall on Sunday afternoons for "Dunch."

Levina recognizes that she is the underdog in this election, given her opponent's impressive record of student government experience, but she is willing to put up a fight. Levina may not have her name plastered across the back of car windows across campus, but small touches such as an appearance at pub night last week somehow seem more genuine.

Williams for SCCOCC

Though she is not the most passionate candidate, Annie Williams '07 alone seems to have the best grasp of the Student Co-Chair of Community Council's role on campus. By making it clear that she will not push her own specific agenda, we are confident that Williams would ensure a representative student voice among the faculty, staff and administration on the Community Council. Williams noted that she has already been meeting with Dean of Student Affairs Ann Hanson and Dean of Students Tim Spears. By establishing a relationship with current SCCOCC of two years J.S. Woodward, Williams demonstrates a desire to continue with long-term proposals, such as the Carbon Reduction initiative.

We urge Ryan Tauriainen '08 to continue to push his ambitious and impressive agenda in other capacities, but his platform did not strike us as the best suited for the representative role of the SCCOCC. And to Michael Tierney '09.5: take a little more time to get settled in. We hope to see you back out campaigning next year.

OPINIONS SUBMISSION POLICY

The Opinions pages of *The Middlebury Campus* provide a forum for constructive and respectful dialogue on substantive issues. With this in mind, *The Campus* reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks. Any segment of a submitted article that contains any of the aforementioned will be removed before publication. Contributors will be allowed to reference prior articles published in the Opinions section or announcements for the public record. If a reference is made to prior articles, the submission will be considered a letter to the editor. *The Campus* will not accept or print anonymous letters. The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. *The Campus* welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less. Submit works directly to the Opinions Editor, Drawer 30, campus@middlebury.edu or via the paper's We bsite at www.middleburycampus.com. To be considered for publications, submissions must be received by 5 p.m. Tuesday. *The Campus* reserves the right to edit all submissions.

HEARD ON CAMPUS

"It all grew out of us being frustrated with going to clubs and feeling like they were just talking and not doing anything."

-Divya Khosla '06 Student Director of the Midd8 referring to the campaign's origin, in an interview this week.

Uhhh... What do Volcanos taste like?...
Are there any more cookies?
MIDD
S. Schwitz MTLong
LESSON #1: NEVER OFFER A LECTURE CALLED "VOLCANOS AND REGGAE" ON 4/20.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor:

Alina Levina for SGA President!

Alina Levina has worked diligently as Co-Director of the SGA Diversity Committee. At first, I was hesitant to let an underclassman take on such a demanding position, but was certain that among my committee members, she was the one constantly e-mailing me about new ideas and most vocal with her opinions. She is a supreme example of what the underclassmen have been able to accomplish in such a short time here, and a testament to the fact that Middlebury works hard to accept into its community qualified, hard-working and extremely intelligent individuals. She is running for SGA President and I extremely encourage you to support her, as she is one of the next powerful female leaders on this campus.

I have read her platform, and I hope that you will each do that as well, and understand that experience is not everything. Oftentimes, we dismiss those who are younger and label them "inexperienced." Alina, if elected, will make things happen on this campus. We continually ask why the SGA exists. If she is elected, I am sure you will all find out. Her fervor, passion, intellect and drive are admirable qualities she possesses. Vote for Alina Levina and you will not be let down.

She has been an outspoken asset to this campus, and I am confident that she will continue to speak on behalf of the student body if elected to this position. Use your vote to make a difference at Middlebury, vote for Alina Levina!

Sincerely,
Lauren Curatolo '06
Bayside, N.Y.

The Middlebury Campus (USPS 556-060), the student newspaper of Middlebury College; is published by The Middlebury Campus Publications. Publication is every Thursday of the academic year, except during offical college vacation periods and final examinations. Editorial and business offices are located in Hepburn Hall Annex, Middlebury College. The Middlebury Campus is produced on Apple Macintosh computers using Adobe InDesign 2.0 and is printed by BD Press in Burlington, Vt. The advertising deadline for all display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. Friday for the following week's issue. Mailing address: The Middlebury Campus, Drawer 30, Middlebury College, Middlebury, Vt., 05753. Office phone: (802) 443-5736. Business phone: (802) 443-5737. Please address distribution concerns to the Business Director. First class postage paid at Middlebury, Vt., 05753.

Fire Hazards: Making us all a little safer...

One morning I awoke to my roommate frantically searching the room for his boots. Looking around the room, I realized mine were missing too. And they weren't in the hallway where we had left them. "Eh, maybe the custodians took them," I said groggily, not realizing that that would pose a problem when it came to actually waking up and walking around outside to some place, like class or something. Stupid fire safety rules, I thought to myself. How can a pair of boots on the side of the wall be a fire hazard, I thought? My roommate looked around in the halls. He returned to the room triumphantly with both pairs of boots. "They put them in the study," he said. Nonetheless, I was still peeved.

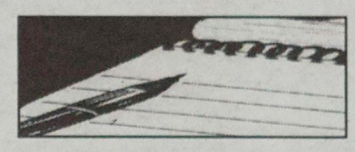
However, everything changed a week later when I woke up to the smell of smoke. Battell was on fire! I stumbled out into the hallway, determined to leave the building as quickly as possible, but no one was around. Looking down the hallway, I saw an insurmountable obstacle: a pair of skis leaning against the wall. Now, to a normal person, this might not present such a problem. But see, I have hallcentrophobia, fear of walking in the middle of the hallway. I always have to walk down the hall pressed as closely as I can to the wall. Even burning alive scares me less. The skis loomed before me menacingly. Luckily I had been part of a contortionist troupe for years and I was able to flatten myself and slide under the heavy metal barriers. I still didn't see any smoke but I smelled something awful burning.

I was sure I was in the clear before another behemoth blocked my path—a deadly pair of snow-boarding boots was lying on the floor. Luckily I am on the track team at Middlebury and made a running long jump over the boots, narrowly missing them as they viciously snapped upwards, attempting to entangle my feet. But before I could make my landing, disaster struck. A poster that had only been taped on THREE SIDES came flying off the wall and gave me not one but four really bad paper cuts. I stumbled to the floor, bleeding profusely.

Crawling down the hall, I was almost to the stairwell, when suddenly, I noticed that the coat rack removed from the weight room had found its way to Battell, and now hordes of clothes came flying off of it at me, like the ravenous avian beasts of Hitchcock's "The Birds." Flocking down upon me, they covered me in all manner of gross gym shorts and horribly unfashionable jackets. "Curse you, people who won't change in the locker room!," I cried out hopelessly, but to no avail. Silence now. No air to breath. Only the horrid oily tar taste creeping up my nostrils. Let it in. Let it fill your lungs. They were counting on you, and you blew it. Skinny, stealy fingers at my wrist. You're an angel. You're a saint. You're Mother Theresa. You're Elvis. You're a god. But no. It was just Officer Chris. Hoisting me up over his manly physique like a sack of potatoes, he dragged me from the flames. Except there were no flames, it was just another student, who had burned the popcorn in the microwave, again.

A week later there was a fire in the weight room. Apparently the guy who runs while singing with his headphones on had run so fast that the friction caused the treadmill to burst into flames. The flames spread, causing all the elipticals in the room to spontaneously combust when the temperature reached E.M.T. (Eliptical Melting Temperature). Luckily, everyone got out okay, thanks to the fact that those vicious attack-coats had been removed, even if it was almost at my expense. Now every time my boots get hoisted by custodians and my RAs harass me the second I put my snowboard down in the hall, I can only smile, thinking how much everyone cares about my safety.

ALEX BENEPE '09
UNDECLARED MAJOR
FROM NEW YORK, N.Y.



NOTES
FROM THE DESK

Finally, the long-awaited Human Relation Committee (HRC) Report has arrived. The report includes a fair number of surprises. Here's a peek at what's inside:

The Good:

Middlebury is only 1.2 percent more domestic Caucasian than the national average.

It suggests that there be a protocol in response to critical incidents of anti-diversity behavior as well as a public inventory of such events.

There is an emphasis on facilitating an increase in diversity of the staff, faculty and student body alike.

All the 1999 recommendations for improving religious diversity have been established.

The Bad:

The terms PALANA and "diversity" are occasionally used synonymously, though PALANA does not include things like difference of ability, gender, and sexual orientation.

While the 1999 HRC report had several specific recommendations for sexual orientation that went unfulfilled, this report did not suggest remedies. For example, sexual orientation is left off housing questionnaires for reasons of "privacy," but semi-closeted gay students are expected to mention—unprompted— concerns that their orientation might engender on that same sheet that their parents might see. This logic is inconsistent.

The definition of diversity was not updated to reflect the College's non-discrimination policy, so that gender expression and expression were left out.

The Ugly:

Women make up only 13 percent of tenured faculty.

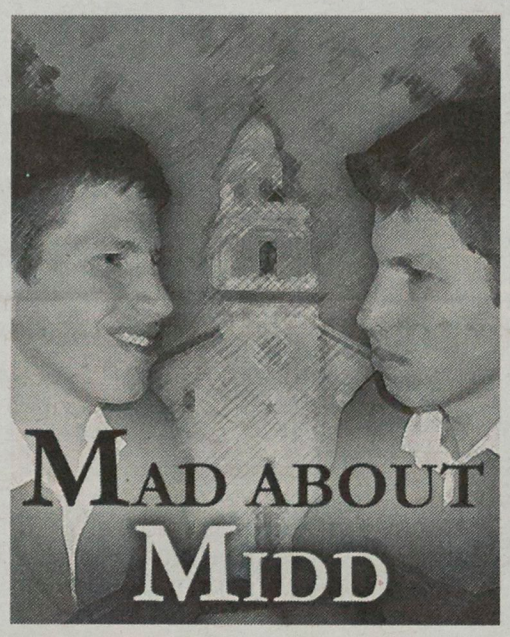
Hispanic and African American people are woefully underrepresented in all areas of the College.

Socioeconomic difficulties continue to be an obstacle for many low-income students.

Many of the 1999 recommendations, such as the critical incident protocol and involving minority students in recruitment, were never completed.

Overall, despite my emphasis on some negatives, the report is thorough and well done. It is also not binding. It is imperative that the administration step in and implement the vast majority of its recommendations without delay.

— Jason F. Siegel
Focus Editor



'A Comedy of Errors'

By Dave Barker
Opinion Columnist

If you like comedy, I hope you made it to the SGA candidate debate on Sunday. I wish someone had sent a tape to the Daily Show so Jon Stuart could feast on the many comical moments. The SGA has tackled important issues this year like transportation and textbooks with success, however, after listening in on the candidates, I am not sure whether to vote for one of them or write in Krusty the Clown.

The night offered plenty of the humorous and the unbelievable. First off, could the SGA set a dress code appropriate to a rural liberal arts campus? The business suites and pinstripes made me wonder if a few of the candidates had ambled over from Saturday's Rites of Spring formal or a Career Service's networking event for aspiring investment bankers.

Indeed, Rites of Spring seemed to be on everyone's mind as the candidates unanimously agreed on the need for seeing SafeRides through to its completion. SafeRides, the shuttle service initiated by this year's SGA, is a no-brainer, especially if the social scene continues to spread off campus. The only debate over improving the party scene turned into a nasty popularity contest. After one Community Council candidate was grilled on attendance at off-campus parties, another candidate responded: "I have significant social experience." Which begs the question: should being a party-animal and having friends off campus qualify you for student government?

The candidates for Student Co-Chair of Community Council (SCCOCC) leave me questioning the role of this branch of student government that serves as a liaison between students and the faculty, administration and staff. As one experienced SGA member told me, "Community council is the biggest waste of time ever." One of the candidates for SCCOCC admitted to having no agenda or platform. The candidate answered most of the questions with a few sentences, making me wonder what students can look forward to next year.

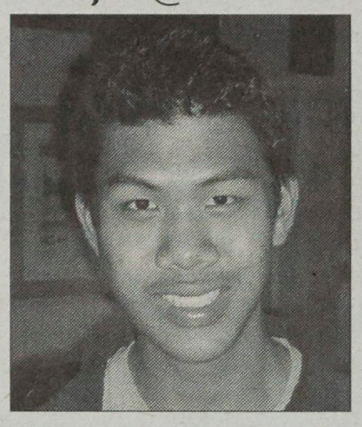
Another SCCOCC hopeful should have taken the cue of the tight-lipped candidate after rambling on about a need for campus-wide "Assassin" and Quidditch games. Calls for community building through co-commons events would qualify the candidate to be a commons co-chair—the organizers of such events—not SCCOCC. Current SCCOCC J.S. Woodward received widespread praise from the candidates for his commitment over the past two years. Next year's co-chair will have to grow bigger feet before being able to fit into Woodward's shoes.

Filling SGA President Eli Berman's shoes will take work as well. Thankfully, the candidates didn't throw around the usual pie in the sky promises of printers in dorm lounges or "get out of finals free" cards. One candidate came close with talk of "Sunday Dunch"—a meal that would be served between 2 and 5 p.m. on Sundays to build community.

Having spent a semester in Spain, I love the idea, but at Middlebury, students split from brunch to their favorite chair in the library on Sundays. The other candidate displayed masterful rhetoric skills and tried to convince the audience of a "love for the SGA."

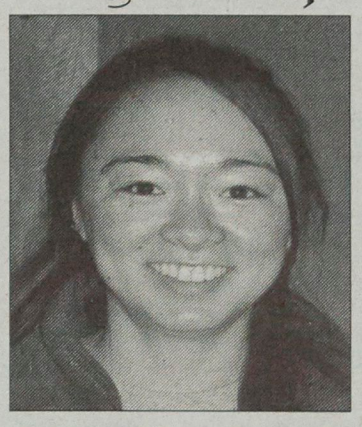
I am skeptical: can you really love spending hours e-mailing and attending meetings? Being a president or co-chair has to be one of the most thankless positions on campus. You compromise your social life and see your grades slip while debating legislation that rarely satisfies everyone. I hope that whoever wins on Friday will steer far from the theatrics of Sunday night.

The Middlebury Campus online poll



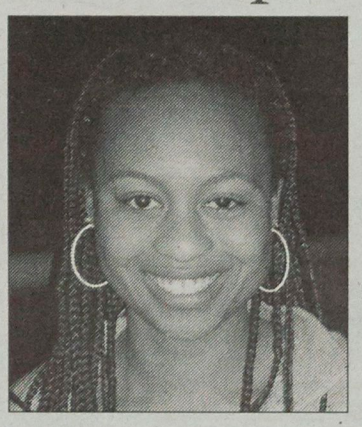
"I'VE TRIED, BUT I'M COMPUTER-ILLITERATE."

—JULIO CHONG '08



"EVERYONE KNOWS IT'S ILLEGAL, BUT IT'S A FREE WAY TO GET MUSIC."

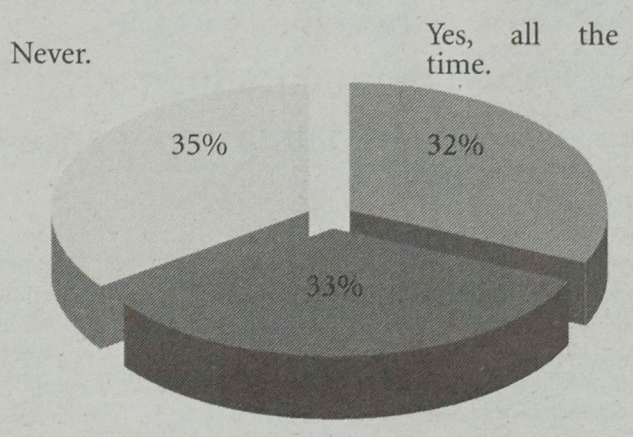
—ENA YASUHARA '06



"I HAVE A MAC, I CAN'T GET ON THE NETWORK."

—AZARIA SHAW '08

HAVE YOU EVER USED THE COLLEGE NETWORK FOR ILLEGAL DOWNLOADING?



Results based on 57 responses collected between April 11 and April 18 at www.middleburycampus.com

Next Week's Poll Question: Do you ever feel unsafe on the Middlebury campus?

Three Easy Steps to Rid Midd of Apathy

The past few weeks of *Middlebury Campus* articles have both brought to light and criticized the apathy epidemic that has struck Middlebury College. I want to dispel the notion that one can only change the world with a loud voice. The countless number of students working at Porter Hospital or spending their entire J-Term in BiHall, taking organic chemistry, have little or no voice on the global scale. Every one of them has aspirations to help and make a difference in the world. And yet, I've heard a discussion in which a person taking a J-Term class on Hurricane Katrina talked down to and belittled a pre-med student who did not have the privilege, based almost entirely on the course he was taking.

These experiences have led me to wonder whether or not Middlebury breeds apathy, or rather alienation. I feel that misguided activism is the culprit—people talking so loudly that they deafen our otherwise attentive ears. One way to remedy this would be to look at the most successful activist in the history of our country. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his Letter from Birmingham Jail outlines the three steps necessary before protest that are often lacking in academia.

The first stage, the collection of facts, should be second nature to the academic world. As students, we research, read and question, hoping to gain insight. This is the cornerstone of protest; knowing what and why you are protesting. Yet, when Fred Singer, the winner of the Flat Earth Award, offered to come to Middlebury College to defend his anti-global warming stance, students quickly turned him down.

Never mind how exciting it would have been to watch Richard Wolfson or Jonathan Ishaam go toe-to-toe in an epic debate. If campus activism seeks to diminish and deride opposing views, I'll more than happily take on the mantle of neutrality. At least then I'll be able to hear more than one opinion.

After all the facts have been gathered, negotiation serves as a crucial bridge before protest. Last year, I was stopped from entering Pearsons, my residence, by a blockade of angry protesters. PALANA had staged a protest against the Frisbee Team's Cowboy and Indian party. Instead of civilly discussing the party theme or requesting an apology for crudely worded voicemails, students decided to immediately take action. As a result, I was barred from going to my room. I am not sure if Native Americans felt in any way vindicated that night, but I can speak for myself. I was disappointed that students chose to bring violence and anger to a campus when a peaceful resolution would have served their cause.

Finally, if protest is a necessity, King insisted upon "self-purification." While I do not know exactly what this abstract term entails, its absence is extremely visible. For example, at last week at UC Santa Cruz, student protesters massed outside of a military recruitment tent at a job fair. As the "activism" escalated, recruiters were forced to leave out of fear that either students or law enforcers would be hurt. These protesters were fighting for free speech and tolerance, yet their actions spoke with none of those qualities. Those interested in a career in the military were intimidated and bullied, and the situation depicted the anti-war movement as a group of bellicose thugs.

When gearing up for confrontation, I know how adrenaline rushes to your head, throwing you into fight-or-flight mode. When 150 people are behind you, picking a fight is much easier than turning tail. We see the results of this animalistic process even in developed countries, such as France. Self-purification washes away these primal urges, and focuses us on the cause at hand. You can find this attitude all over Middlebury, when students choose to organize a mass bike rally rather than firebomb a factory. For the most part, this self-purification is not an issue. We meditate and discuss, focusing our thoughts and actions rationally. Still, there is a darker side to protest that we must be on guard for, a darker side which serves only to alienate and divide. The UCSC students, by protesting conflict and war, only created a new one.

I am mostly hoping that the campus activists read this and realize that almost everyone at Middlebury wants to make a difference in the world, and wants to become a substantial part of society. This should be appreciated and welcomed, even if it initially comes as discouraging. No one truly apathetic would have been admitted to this college. The students you don't see protesting may be directing their passions elsewhere. The best one could hope for is not to alienate this segment of Middlebury, or self-righteously scorn them. As students, the pursuit of personal happiness and truth should unite us, not divide.

DREW EDELSTEIN '07
A MOLECULAR BIOLOGY AND BIOCHEMISTRY DOUBLE MAJOR
FROM WESTPORT, CONN.

Stand Down, Stanton

Last Sunday, I tuned in to the WRMC broadcast of the SGA / SCCOCC debate. What I heard made me absolutely livid: a poor excuse for public debate, crippled by dismissiveness and facilitated by an ineffectual, informal format.

Following up last week's *Campus* op-ed piece, agitator David Wrangham '06.5 asked the candidates to comment on the SGA's constitution, its economic dependence on the College, poor integration of student activists into the body, and token student representation on academic and judicial boards. First-year Presidential candidate Alina Levina's response was earnest, professional, and sufficiently lacking in gravitas to make little impact. Then, Levina's opponent, Alex Stanton '07, spoke, and I began a struggle against the fierce urge to cause damage in some way — I got so agitated, I contemplated urination — to my beloved radio.

Stanton referred to SGA President Berman '07 familiarly, repeated the shout-out to SGA elder statesman Andrew Carnabuci '06 superfluously included in his Letter of Intent, and, above all, disrespected Levina and Wrangham, altogether reflecting his insider's sense of entitlement.

Despite rebuking one questioner for "taking cheap shots" at him, Stanton himself dismissed Levina for her limited experience. (Jacobi, anyone?) In response to Wrangham's points, Stanton invited Wrangham (and his friends!) to effect change by running for office themselves next year, ignoring the irony that Wrangham was, in that moment, asking *him* to do exactly that. In particular, Stanton's plan for combating racism is *for students to discuss it openly with each other*. As Levina countered, this dismissal of the issue unfairly shifts the responsibility from administration and SGA to concerned individuals. Its implementation hardly requires the presence of an SGA. In fact, Stanton's most reform-minded stated goal is equally weak: to assemble a task force to "evaluate the possibility" of cautiously increasing transparency in community board proceedings. On the other hand, Levina's background involving the Posse Program, lauded as a cornerstone of the College's diversification efforts, does at least signify dedication to reform and diversity.

In several responses, Stanton correctly noted that disagreement and argument are ever-present in democracy. He did so as a warning of poor policy efficacy, rather than because they lead to deliberative legislation, making pluralism and diversity of political opinion useful. Instead, Stanton seemed to warn that students should expect SGA gridlock regardless of leadership.

Having served on the Institutional Affairs Committee during its toothless inaugural semester, I fear such continued acceptance of and limited dedication to fighting institutional problems will compromise the SGA's potential for drawing out and channeling the "student power" that has thus far been a mere campaign slogan.

> Stanton and the SGA elite should realize that students care far more about their own experiences in the community than any candidate's experience in the SGA

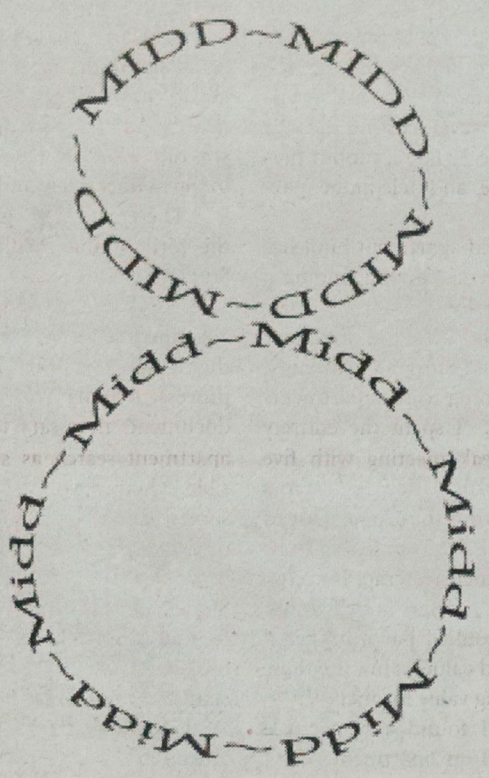
Stanton's role as a debate participant should not have been to dismiss, but to invite: to show his vision, to inspire. Instead, he insulted his opponent, two questioners, and consequently the polity that provided him his seat at the table. This behavior was allowed because moderators failed to demand professional debate, and, more worryingly, because the moderation format was not set: whoever officiated seemed to arbitrarily amend the rules. This debate was an important one—the *single* debate upon which the candidacies rest. Therefore, the format should have been firmly codified and followed, and not compromised mid-debate!

If I am harshly critical of Stanton, it is because his (or anyone's) serious experience in the SGA involves respect *and* responsibility. His position as the upperclassman, SGA-bred favorite in this race necessitated a more sophisticated, more politically savvy campaign than "I invite *you* to run" and "Well, come on, nobody will listen to a freshman," which (had he conducted it) might have been met by spirited opposition of an equally high standard. Senior Advisor for International Diversity Leroy Nesbitt once explained to me the value of the ability to combine critical policy goals with an intelligent and civil manner of speaking . . . a quality rarely seen in this monster truck rally that is our current political discourse.

Stanton and the SGA elite should realize that students care far more about their own experiences in the community than *any* candidate's experience in the SGA. I thank him for advising that I, too, can run for office, and instead will participate by taking, and repeating, SCCOCC candidate junior Annie Williams' recommendation that the concerned direct letters to the *Campus*. And, in the spirit of friendly suggestions, I aim the following at election organizers: Ensure that abstention is an option on this week's ballot.

Because we take seriously our responsibility to vote, we must avoid the uninspired rhetoric and other banana peels that litter our College's political scene, and vote for *nothing less* than a candidate who sees them, and swears to sweep them away. To the community: abstention, though disparaged by self-styled "rationalists" as "wasteful", can also be seen as a participatory tool. Do not rule it out.

VIRAJ ASSAR '07
AN ENGLISH AND POLITICAL SCIENCE DOUBLE MAJOR
FROM ALEXANDRIA, VIRG.



Absolute Ambition

On behalf of the Roosevelt Institution, we would like to congratulate the organizers of Midd8, faculty and staff participants, and those students who have joined our efforts to promote the United Nations Millennium Goals.

The UN unveiled the eight Millennium Goals at the turn of the century as a galvanizing effort extending the resources of the richest to the world's poorest. Ambitious and bold? Absolutely. And the only way to succeed is to let ambition drive our thoughts to action. As citizens of our world community, we should interpret this declaration as an opportunity to participate in dialogues for peace, to promote universal human rights and education, and to produce environmental solutions for the sustainability of our planet. The goals, eight grand visions for a better future, give purpose to international cooperative networks in the next 10 years. Governments, nonprofits and international corporations are working to implement these goals, though they often neglect students' ideas. But what Midd8 has so effectively proven is that students are also an integral factor in this equation.

The Roosevelt Institution, the nation's first student think tank, provides a venue through which you can contribute to the work of the Millennium Goals on campus. The International Affairs Center of the institution is working toward the eighth goal to create Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development within four regions of the world, including combating poverty in South America, promoting civic engagement in the Middle East, providing healthcare in Africa and establishing education in Asia.

The Roosevelt Institution interprets these goals as our opportunity to contribute to the positive changes of today. We are a student think tank, and thus deeply understand the importance of engaging students and incorporating their ideas into the future plans of global development. Take the first step. We would like to invite you to a panel discussion engaging Middlebury students on these issues, April 28 in the Robert A. Jones '59 House at 4:30.

Our world needs time, money and good ideas to solve its problems. We can cover the good ideas. We're a think tank—that's what we do.

JESSICA SINGLETON '08.5
DAVID HOPKINS '06.5
ON BEHALF OF THE ROOSEVELT INSTITUTION CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

College? check. Job? check. Apartment?...

Finding and renting an apartment sucks. As a soon-to-be graduated Middlebury senior I have faced this problem head on. First, from abroad, where after a successful but exhausting internship search I found myself shifting through hundreds of listings on craigslist, placing expensive overseas calls to brokers and landlords, who more often than not had already rented or desisted the apartment I was interested in. I lost out on apartments because I did not have the correct paperwork together, or because I could not come by to see the apartment and speak with the owners. I was lost and intimidated and I have no bargaining power or knowledge of the market to spot rip-offs and talk down greedy landlords. Luckily, my persistence paid off and I eventually found a sublet on the Upper-West side of New York. It was expensive, however, costing me and my roommate $2,800 a month plus utilities, cable and telephone payments.

My second apartment hunt has only just ended. Among finding a job, applying for scholarships, going to class and finishing my thesis, I had the added burden of finding a broker and going to see apartments in New York. I spent the entirety of spring break meeting with five different brokers, trekking across Manhattan, from the Upper East to the West Village. Most of what I saw was crap—expensive crap, but crap all the same. I found myself thinking—Why should I pay a broker if he doesn't add value? How are these brokers adding value for me?

Luckily, I found a respectable agency and an apartment that I liked. Still, this was just the beginning. I soon began a round of negotiations with both my broker and my landlord—we discussed the move-in date, the rent, the application process, etc. Fortunately, as I had spent so much time with other brokers looking at other apartments, I had a pretty accurate idea of the market and was able to negotiate a fair price. I even talked my broker's fee down to 13.5 percent of the first year's rent. This process, however, took considerable planning, time, commitment and attention. The real estate business is a dirty business and students entering the market are easy prey for selfish brokers and landlords. Unless you are prepared for the equivalent of a fifth class, you might want to consider an alternative to the usual apartment hunting process—an alternative started by a fellow Middlebury student.

Studentsrent.com was launched by your fellow college students with the goal of serving graduating or interning students in search of apartments of sublets in New York City. It is probably one of the quickest and most stress free ways of finding an apartment in New York City. Unlike other services, Studentrent.com carries an element of assurance. The ethics that form the foundation of a Middlebury education are instilled in the institutions that rise out of its graduates. These are fellow students that understand the real estate market in New York from hands-on experience. They are not here to rip you off. They are here to bring you to the market safely and hassle-free.

The first step is filling out the form online. Within 72 hours Studentsrent.com will have a reliable agent contact you about your apartment choices. The agent will then guide you through the renting process, helping you assemble the documents necessary to make your apartment search as short as possible whether you are looking for somewhere to live for the next year or two, or for a summer sublet close to your internship. What is more, Studentsrent.com also offers you a fee that is much lower than a typical broker. Every broker in New York charges 15 percent of one year's rent. Students Rent charges a fee of only 10 percent. For a $2,000 apartment, this discount would save you a notable $1,200.

Moreover, unlike the situation I found myself in only months ago, when I was frustrated by the lack of "value added" by my expensive brokers, StudentsRent is here to help you. Instead of a broker pushing unwanted real estate on you, StudentsRent will listen to what your needs are and work to help you find what you are looking for. You will never be pressured into an apartment or sublease. Nor does StudentsRent stop after the apartment is found. Agents for StudentsRent will assist you through every step of the negotiation process. As a token of their ability, just consider how the founders of this new business were able to secure a fee of only 10 percent—33 percent below the market rate!

Do yourself the favor. Don't spend the last weeks of school stressing out over finding shelter in New York. Spend it partying with your friends and creating memories to take with you for the rest of your life. Renting in New York City should not be this difficult, and Middlebury College students now have an alternative. StudentsRent.com is run by Middlebury students for Middlebury students, so let's do ourselves a favor and help our community while we help ourselves.

SEAN BREEN '06
A HISTORY AND ECONOMICS DOUBLE MAJOR
From Far Hills, N.J.

A powerful student body

While searching in vain for a vacant practice room the other night, it finally clicked. Overwhelmed by the sounds of Bach preludes, Mendelssohn trios, Beethoven and Brahms, I truly understood, perhaps for the first time, the true power of each individual student and of the Middlebury College student body as a whole. Where else — in the world — could so high a proportion of a single community be challenging themselves to master music so difficult and complex? And if this is what was happening in the CFA, I wondered, what were our fellow students doing at BiHall, in the library and on the playing field? Undoubtedly, developing skills and honing talents equally as impressive.

"But, Eli," you ask, "how do these things transform into power?" Let me explain.

A year ago today, as an idealistic, young(er), aspiring leader, I ran for SGA president on a campaign platform of "power." My thought was that 2,350 bright, involved, energetic (and, yes, attractive) people with diverse backgrounds and ambitions could combine their formidable energy to achieve definitive and durable change.

A year later, that thought has transformed into an unshakeable conviction. After meeting with countless students, administrators and community members, I now know how respected Middlebury students are and how seriously we are taken by decision-makers, both on and off campus.

A few examples:

— By encouraging professors to submit requisition forms earlier, the SGA helped students earn three times as much money selling their books back to the bookstore.

— With few transportation options provided by the College, the SGA subsidized a bus to Burlington that now shuttles members of the College and town communities to the "big city" at a more than reasonable price.

— And my favorite—two years ago, the SGA successfully convinced the Administration to open Proctor for Sunday brunch after it had decided, with minimal student input, to close the dining hall on the weekends.

These examples are not intended to be a laundry list of SGA's accomplishments. Rather, I want to remind all of us that positive change, when supported by an informed and involved student body, is not only possible but inevitable. The Middlebury student body simply has too many good ideas to be denied.

The Student Activity Fee — the second of the two lines that appear on your tuition bill — helps make all of this possible. The fee, which next year will be about $235, is directly controlled and allocated by the SGA through the SGA Finance Committee. Though $235 may not seem like all that much, it totals over $500,000 when multiplied by Middlebury's 2,350 students. The money goes to MCAB, the commons and clubs in order to enhance student life on — and soon off — campus. It is especially useful when, as with the recently passed "SafeRides" bill, the Administration chooses not to financially support a student initiative, because the SGA has the ability to allocate funds (at least to a certain degree) as it deems appropriate.

"OK," you are now saying, "the SGA did a couple good things and we have a lot of money. What does that have to do with me?" Well, my fellow students, it has everything to do with all of us. The SGA, your student government, is only as powerful as you believe it can be (sort of sounds like Tinkerbelle). The government can only make change if you voice a need and you allow your elected representatives to fill that need.

Today's elections for the SGA's two most powerful positions provide the first and easiest way to involve yourself. Read the candidates' statements of intent, which are available online, and vote. Bombard your new leaders with needs, wants, ideas and concerns, whether realistic or not. Criticize, criticize and then criticize some more. As someone who has been on the receiving end for the past year, I know it hurts a little but helps a lot.

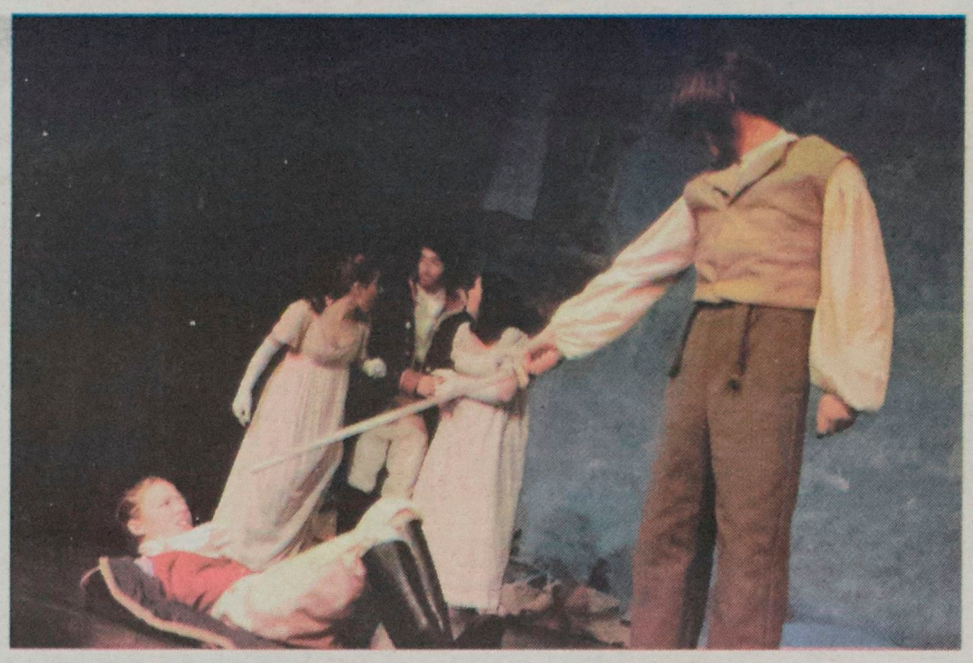
Above all, stay involved. Whether we are trying to open Proctor or, as Midd8 is now doing, focusing on Millenium Goals, the Student Government is the most accessible and effective way to amplify the voice of every student and group. With so much going on at Middlebury, and students challenging themselves in so many unique ways, Middlebury is a lot like those CFA practice rooms. Though we are all trying to make our own music, we can't help but be influenced by what we hear from other aspiring virtuosi, as long as we respect what they are doing, give a helping hand and remember to listen. And if we band together and support the objective of an active and powerful SGA, I am certain that next year will be filled with beautiful music all across our campus.

ELI BERMAN '07.5
SGA PRESIDENT
From Chevy Chase, MD.

Do your friends tell you to shut it?

We'll probably publish it.

SUBMIT TO OPINIONS



Pirate Preview: 'Legend of Cofresí'

Production Team

Producer:
Merissa Kraham '06

Director:
Teddy Crecelius '08

Musical Director:
Kevin Velez '06

Choreographer:
Ellie Molyneux '08

Conductor:
Daniel Donnelly '06

Costume Design:
Aleks Schoen '08

Lighting Design:
Bruce Davis '07.5

Stage Manager:
Sara Jameson '09

It is not unusual to see a musical produced, directed and acted by students on the Middlebury campus. What is unusual, however, is seeing one written by a student as well. Yet this weekend, for the first time, an original, one-act musical written and scored by a Middlebury student will make its debut in the McCullough Social Space.

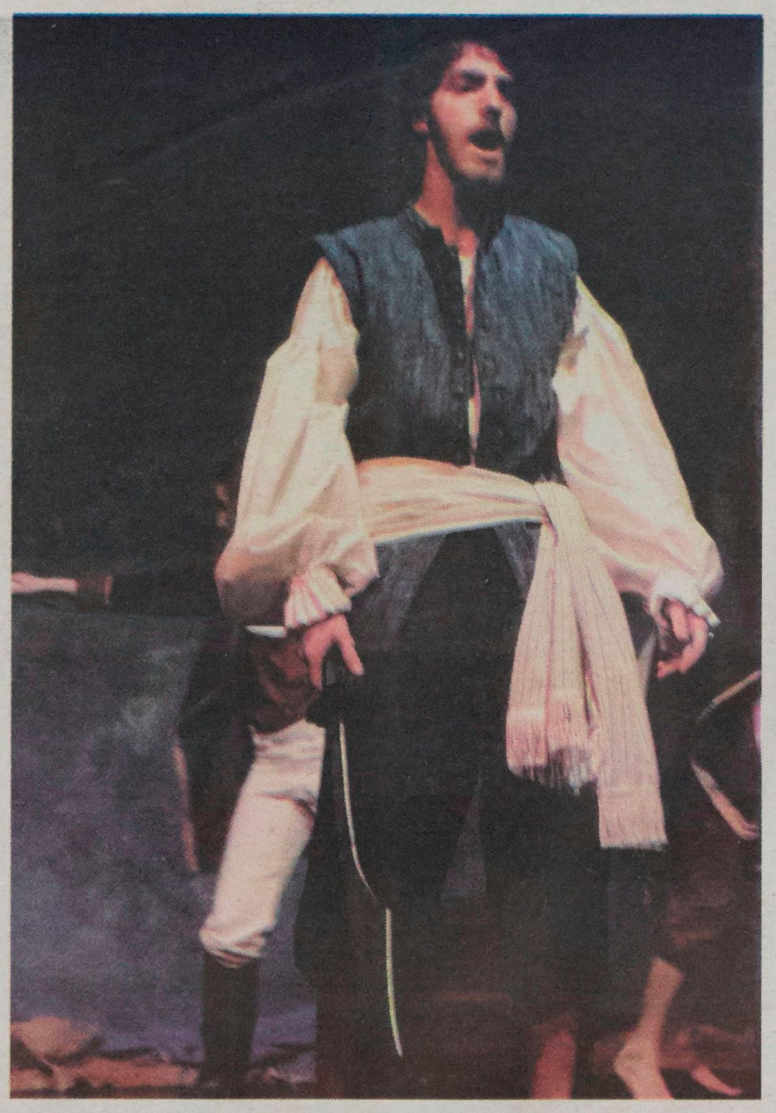
The work is the brainchild of senior Kevin Velez, a music major from Hanover, N.H (pictured center-right). A gifted singer, percussionist and composer, Velez had been active in the musical theater scene since his arrival on campus four years ago, doing double duty as musical director and playing "Noah" in the Middlebury College Musical Players' (MCMP) "Children of Eden." Even then, he was considering the possibility of taking his passion for the art to the next level. Over the last year, that dream has become a reality as he wrote and participated in "The Legend of Cofresí," his senior project.

The show, like all musicals, has anything but a straightforward plot. Loosely based on a true story, the play takes place in Puerto Rico— where Velez's family is originally from— in 1825, the end of the golden age of piracy. A poor bookseller who specializes in the obscure niche of pirate literature is struggling to support his three young daughters, Pinta, Nina and María. The oldest daughter is being courted by a successful merchant named Colón. As part of the courtship, Colón asks Pinta's father to take her to the grand Navy Ball, but the father suspiciously denies the request and refuses to explain why. Pinta ignores her father and convinces her sister Nina to dress as a man so that they can sneak into the ball together. Nina, who soon emerges as the central character, meets the dashing don Pedro, and the two quickly bond. The father soon storms into the ball to find his daughters, and ends up being on the receiving end of a brutal attack inspired by the gentry's disdain for the presence of a man as poor as he in their ball.

Nina, still in drag, takes over her father's business and becomes engrossed in the pirate literature, idolizing the notorious Cofresí. Don Pedro and she have increasingly intimate, philosophical conversations, leading him to question the nature of his feelings for this "man." When he announces to Nina that he is about to capture Cofresí, she protests and goes so far as to try to stop him, which allows Cofresí to take the naval officer hostage. Nina must then choose between the man she loves and the man whose legend has enthralled her.

The process of coming up with the story and then getting it produced was an enormous challenge, according to Velez. "It was a nightmare," he said half-jokingly. The largest initial obstacle for him was the fact that he was taking on the responsibilities of a librettist, lyricist and composer, jobs normally spread out among two to five people. Moreover, he had no formal training in playwriting, only a keen sense of the structure of a musical. After going through a number of different ideas, including a story that would take place in Iraq, he was intrigued by the story of Cofresí and the complexities of a cross-dressed love story explored in such diverse areas such as Iraqi folktales, Shakespeare and Puerto Rican legends. Once he had settled on the idea, he ended up turning to friends and family as backups in writing lyrics, ironing out storylines and more.

Another difficulty Velez faced was securing a space to stage the show. The only acceptable space available for musicals was the Mc-



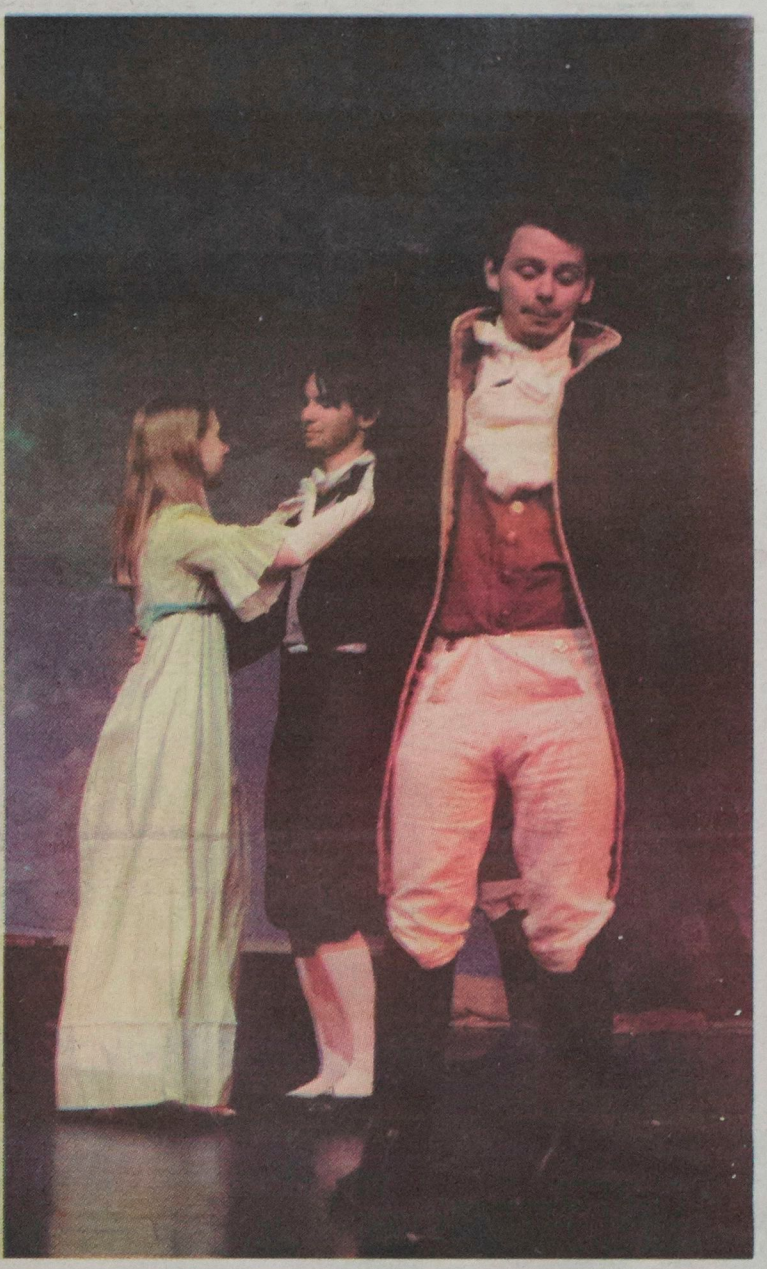
Principal Players

Nina:
Sally Swallow '07
don Pedro:
Ian Fleischman '06
Pinta:
Merissa Kraham '06
María:
Brianna Cullen '08
Cofresí:
Kevin Velez '06
Papi:
Starrett Berry '09
Mami:
Pauley Tedoff '06
Tía Victoria:
Trista McGetrick '06
Flamboyán:
Scott Leighton '08.5
Colón:
Jay Brito '06

Tickets are available through the CFA Box Office. Shows are Friday at 8 p.m., 10 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 10 p.m. All shows are in the McCullough Social Space.

Clockwise from top left: Liz Brace '08, Starrett Berry '09; Brace, Trista McGetrick '06; Ben Molberger '09; Molberger, Keith Williams '07; Ian Fleischman '06; Merissa Kraham '06, Jay Brito '06; Kevin Velez '06; McGetrick, Dawn Loveland '09, Williams; McGetrick, Fleischman.

Photos by Angela Evancie



Cullough Social Space, and it was only open to student groups, not academic projects. There was just one student group, MCMP, who would be a possible sponsor of the show, and it decided to put on "Into the Woods" in the Hepburn Zoo instead. Velez finally managed to convince the group, however, to officially sponsor this show as well. Adding to these difficulties was the fact that the musical's lead Sally Swallow '07 — who broke her foot earlier in the semester— and its director Teddy Crecelius '08 would both be absent during Tech Week to perform in a national competition for the fall show "The Bewitched."

Despite the difficulties, the show has come together remarkably well. Velez's melodies are catchy and grasp the spirit of the era, while the chorus has mastered complex harmonies. The orchestra and conductor have come together well, and musically the play should be superb. Velez heaped praise upon his actors. Of his two leads, Swallow (Nina) and Ian Fleischman '06 (don Pedro), he said, "They have an amazing dynamic and are vocally stellar."

The depth of talent in the cast impressed him, especially considering how many other theatrical and musical productions are happening this semester. As a member of the Dissipated Eight, he managed to get some of his fellow members to participate, which has afforded him the rare privilege of assembling a chorus of exceptionally talented male singers, to say nothing of the women's talent. He pointed out that the actors in this show had a more difficult job than most, because they had no cast recordings to rely on, no previous performances to consult. Especially important to this effort was rehearsal pianist Douglas McRae '08.

After graduating in May, Velez plans to take a year off to recover from the burnout that results from such a cumbersome undertaking. From there, he hopes to go to graduate school in music composition. He has given thought to converting the show from one act to two. If this week's show is any indication, Velez should have no difficulties producing a four-star show later on.

—Jason F. Siegel
Focus Editor

features

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COMEDIANS ROCK PEPIN GYM

Thirty Days of Global Awareness at Midd

By Ian Schmertzler
Staff Writer

Students may have noticed a slew of events on campus geared toward issues of humanitarian and environmental concern since the month of April began. For those who haven't, the posters, banners, sculptures and flyers represent a coordinated publicity campaign called "30 days of Global Awareness" launched by Midd8, a new organization on campus. Organizers say the campaign's objective is to help students take the step from education and awareness to actual activism on issues.

Based on the worldwide series of Live8 events, Midd8 emphasizes the United Nations' eight millennium goals as those dealing with environmental stability, extreme poverty and hunger, child mortality, maternal health, universal primary education, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and malaria and creating a global partnership for development. Over the course of the month, a series of events at Middlebury sponsored by student organizations have addressed these issues.

Midd8's two student directors, Divya Khosla '06 and Courtney Matson '06, said that the diversity of issues raised by the campaign ought to attract a wider following than a single issue would by itself. "The beauty of the UN millennium goals is that people can probably attach themselves at least to one issue raised," said Matson. While turnout at events during the first week proved low, subsequent events have attracted crowds numbering in the hundreds.

The idea for the project had modest beginnings: "It all grew out of us being frustrated with going to clubs and feeling like they were just talking and not doing anything," said Khosla. "Originally we hoped for a two day conference, a concert, a panel discussion and a keynote speaker," or a small-scale version the Live8 campaign last July. But thanks to support from Old Chapel and student organizations on campus, the idea grew into a month-long program. "Over J-Term, the number of students coming regularly to meetings grew from five to 60," said Khosla, "so several of us involved thought, 'Why not have a whole month of these issues being raised and really draw people under one common goal: action.'" The goal now is to see an equivalent to Midd8 on campus each year.

> The beauty of the UN millenium goals is that people can probably attach themselves at least to one issue raised.
> —Courtney Matson '06

Marie Horbar

Memebers of Midd 8 are creating a Mandela in the library entrance, symbollizing commnity and connection.

Khosla and Matson said that, in addition to the events at Middlebury, Midd8 hoped to garner the attention of student activists at colleges across the country. "We've been getting e-mails and calls from students, East coast West coast, saying 'We want to do something like this, what did you do?'" said Khosla. Organizers hope these other schools will pick up on the idea and host events similar to "30 Days of Global Awareness" next year. "Hopefully we will have a nationwide grassroots effort going before the 2008 presidential elections," Matson said. "It won't stop there, but it's a reasonable objective for us to set." To further this goal, Midd8's organizers have been actively promoting all of their events online.

Numerous organizations and administrators have been involved in making the month's events happen: significant sponsoring organizations have included the Inter-Commons Council, the Rohatyn Center for International Affairs, the Alliance for Civic Engagement and the Roosevelt Institution's international policy branch.

The last two weeks of the month promise to be the biggest for Midd8, with the issues of global warming, the effects of the Southeast Asian tsunami on Sri Lanka, AIDS and student activism taking center stage. "30 Days of Global Awareness" will close with discussions on China's and Russia's places in the world, the AIDS epidemic and the spread of democracy. A complete schedule of Midd8 events is available at www.middlebury.edu/~skirk.

D8 PUTS ON SHOW FOR PROSPECTIVES

Marie Horbar

Showcasing their stellar singing abilities, members of Middlebury's a capella group D8 serenaded prospective students at The Grille this past Sunday night. Prospies turned out for events such as these all over campus for a taste of life as Middlebury College students.

Cook hosts Special Olympics gala

Second annual dance celebrates community connec-

By Dina Magaril
Features Editor

Cook Commons played host to the Special Olympics dance last Friday, April 14 in the Kirk Alumni Center. All of Cook commons as well as the rest of the Middlebury community were invited to attend the dance along with the Addison County Special Olympics team. This is the second time Cook has held this dance — a similar event was held last year.

It was a great way for students to get to know some of the amazing people who live and work in the local community.
—Lynn Gray '07

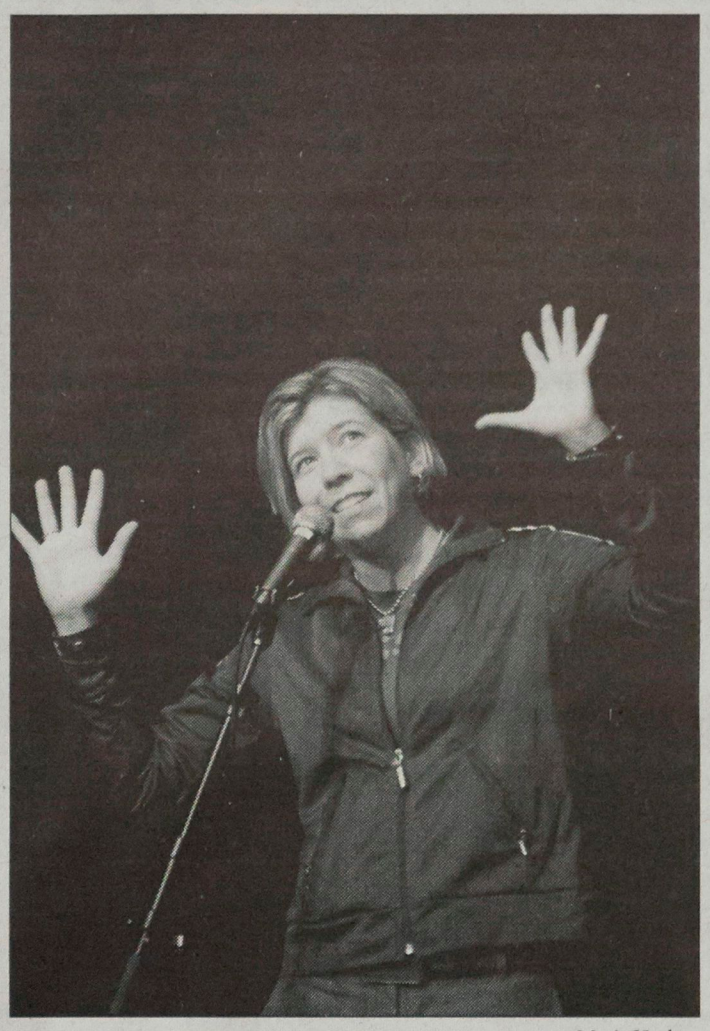
One of the organizers of the event, Cook Commons community service liaison Ashley Calkin '06 said the event's purpose was to "foster a relationship between College students and the local Special Olympics team." Co-Coordinator Lynn Gray '07 added, "The athletes don't have a lot of opportunities to get together as a large group, so the dance was a perfect opportunity for them to reunite. Also, it was a great way for College students to get to know some of the amazing people who live and work in the local community." Calkin also headed up the "Special Olympics Bingo Night," held this past fall.

About 40 athletes and their family members and 15 volunteers from the College attended the event. Gray described the dance as successful because "it united College students and community members in an event where everyone seemed to be on an equal playing field."

Those who attended described the dance floor as packed — students were laughing and limboing to the music. Among the night's highlight events was a performance by a group called "Can Do Dancers." The group brought an important message about tolerance and respect to the event. The troupe has been performing for elementary school students all over Addison County. Gray served as the dance's DJ, and she recalled the experience fondly and described the most popular requests as those for YMCA, Shania Twain, 80's rock, Backstreet boys and other well-known pop hits.

The dance is set to become an annual Cook-sponsored event, as Cook Commons members who have previously participated in the event have developed a special bond with the Special Olympics team.

One-woman show



Marie Horbar

Nationally touring folk poet and progressive artist Alix Olson performed at McCullough last Friday as one of the speakers brought to campus recently for the Global Feminism symposium.

Welcome to Bobby's World

By Bobby Joe Smith

I don't believe that acting as a walking advertisement for Middlebury is more beneficial for "prospies" than telling the truth. That being said, when a friend of mine pathetically plopped down on a futon like silly putty in front of my young visitor and complained in a half-whining, half-suicidal tone about how bored he was because there was never anything to do amidst the mountains of Vermont, I became a bit irate. In retrospect, I wasn't angry that my friend voiced his opinion, even if it did cause irreparable damage to the positive image of Middlebury I had been trying to convey all night. What angered me, and continues to anger me, is that folks can actually be bored and miserable at Middlebury.

What is it about Middlebury that is so unbearable? What is it that makes most weekends consist of shuffling between different social houses only to find they were closed off by public safety moments before you got there? What causes kids to pregame their pre-gaming, creating a river of alcohol that flows more freely than in an Irish pub? I honestly don't understand how anyone can say that there is nothing to do here without being drowned by self-guilt!

First of all, it's not the college's responsibility to entertain us. It is an institution designed to educate and provide a positive learning environment, which – correct me if I'm wrong – has nothing to do with keggers. Secondly, even if it were Middlebury's responsibility to supply us with an entertaining social life, I think they've pretty much done everything they can short of hiring comedians to follow us around all day performing shtick. Every week Middlebury brings to campus a number of talented artists, distinguished lecturers, prized performances and multi-cultural exposés. There are more clubs, workshops, student-run organizations and outdoor programs then you can shake a stick at. Every Friday there's a movie playing in one of the theaters at Dana Auditorium. Our athletic facilities are comparable to most health spas, giving students a chance to work off the freshmen 50 they gained from all the 40's and Ben and Jerry's ice cream. There are basketball and tennis courts everywhere, not to mention our own golf course on campus. And for those who don't actually like doing sports, there are games every weekend that you can watch for free.

It's true that Middlebury is no Boston, New York, or Los Angeles, and it surely doesn't aspire to be one. But what makes Middlebury different is what makes Middlebury special. We knew this before we even decided to go here (or at least we should have figured something out when co-op's and tractors started to out number Starbucks and Suburbans). Burlington, our closest city, is a pretty nice town in itself with clubs, bars, restaurants and shops – and New York, Montreal and Boston aren't too far. The point is, we should be grateful for the things we do have instead of nitpicking at things we don't or complaining about every minor imperfection. Life is too short to not enjoy it.

WINNERS & LOSERS

What's hot and what's not on campus and in pop culture? *The Campus* gives its weekly report.

Rites of Spring	VH1's Best Week Ever
Maybe this off-campus party thing isn't so bad after all.	= Lamest Event Ever. So much for Midd-kids on TV.
Peeps in the microwave	Bring your own dishes to Proctor
If you haven't tried this yet, then you're wasting your Easter candy.	BYOB on a Friday night at Proctor, yes, but BYOD?!? This is getting dangerously close to feeling like eating at home...
Dunch	Brlunner
We admit, it's a weird word, but wouldn't it be awesome to write this in your away message? "At dunch, leave a message." LOL.	It's what happens when you sleep so late on Sunday that you miss breakfast, brunch, lunch and only make it to dinner. Look, mom, we can make up our own words, too!

World Briefs

By Derek Schlickeisen

Police Shooting

Mexican police shot and killed a man mistakenly identified as an illegal migrant worker Monday, infuriating local residents. Town residents rioted after the shooting, destroying two police vehicles and chanting slogans criticizing police for firing on fleeing workers. Many of Tultitlan's residents have the same darker skin color as workers who cross the Mexican-Guatemalan border looking for a train ride north to the United States. As a result, the town has been a flashpoint in Mexico's crackdown on illegal migrant workers as police mistakenly detain townspeople in their sweeps.

—CNN, Tultitlan, Mexico

Lost Veteran

A Japanese soldier who last saw his home when he left to fight American GIs 60 years ago has resurfaced in the Ukraine, according to a statement issued by Japan's Health Ministry. The soldier, Ishinosuke Uwano, was declared dead in 2000 when Japan issued a report taking a look back at its war veterans missing lost in overseas action. While a spokesperson for the Health Ministry would not provide details of how Uwano came to reside in the Ukraine, he did say that the long-lost veteran will spend 10 days reuniting with surviving relatives in Japan. Uwano is 83.

—The New York Times, Tokyo

Holocaust History

Diplomats from the United States, the Netherlands and France are pressuring German officials to open Nazi archives to world historians. Documents containing the names of 17.5 million concentration camp detainees are being sought in particular by international Jewish groups and Holocaust historians to better catalog the tragedy that has come to symbolize the Third Reich. German officials contend that releasing the documents may violate victims' right to privacy.

—The Washington Post, Bad Arolsen, Germany

Ghost Town

The international environmental organization Greenpeace has rejected as an "understatement" a recent United Nations estimate of deaths resulting from a nuclear accident at Chernobyl 20 years ago. While the U.N. suggests roughly 9,000 civilians within range of the nuclear leak have died of cancer, Greenpeace argues that the actual toll may reach 93,000. A Greenpeace spokesman said his group's estimate was much higher because the U.N. did not take undocumented cases into account.

—BBC, Moscow

VH1 enlivens Midd weekend with hit show

By Mike Murali
Staff Writer

Friday, April 14, Middlebury played host to VH1's Best Week Ever Live. Students turned out at Pepin Gymnasium to see four comedians poking fun at the week's events. Among the lineup was Midd Alum Jessica St. Clair '98.

Those who tune in regularly would have recognized the format: noteworthy comedians look at clips from the week's events in popular culture and comment on them. Something similar occurred this past Friday as clips were projected on a big screen set up in the middle of the gym while the four hosts generated witty commentary.

The show was divided into two halves, the first consisting of stand-up performances from each of the stars and the second the actual Best Week Ever portion.

The lineup included Mike Britt, Aziz Ansari and Pete Holmes, in addition to St. Clair. Each comedian showcased his or her own brand of humor. Jokes ranged from St. Clair reading descriptive passages of sex between a modern woman and a Medieval Celtic warrior to Ansari and Britt's racially-fueled styles.

Clips included a cheerleader who fell from the top of a pyramid and continued her cheer as she was being carried away on a stretcher.

Following the standup, Best Week Ever really got going with "In Case You Missed It," which covered the week's best moments in television with commentary from the panelists. Clips included a cheerleader who fell from the top of a pyramid and continued her cheer as she was being carried away on a stretcher and a somewhat disturbing Unicef ad involving the Smurf village being cluster bombed and baby Smurf being left abandoned (It's a real ad that was running in Eastern Europe). There was even a clip of Tyra Banks being felt up by a doctor to determine if she had real or fake breasts.

After this, the comedians turned to the audience, asking Midd students what they wanted to hear about. Responses were fairly varied and each received a fair amount of attention. Among the shout- outs was "Snakes on a Plane," the upcoming movie starring Samuel L. Jackson about, well, snakes on a plane (it's really self-explanatory).

Finally, four people were pulled up on stage and given the chance to prove that they had the best week ever. The winner for the Best Week Ever at Middlebury was first-year Amelia Magistrali for hitting a three-run home run in her softball game that week.

Both MCAB and Middlebury's own sketch comedy group the Brothel were responsible for bringing the event to campus. Said Colleen Sullivan, Special Committee Chair for MCAB, about the event, "Basically I am happy with the way the show went, the group had a great time here and Jessica was very excited to be back…I feel the crowd that came was happy with the show and will look forward to watching them on television and remembering that night."

St. Clair reminisced about Middlebury during her standup routine, talking about her memories of such landmarks as Proctor and Homestead House. After graduating, she went on to a fairly successful acting career. She has appeared on "The Colin Quinn Show," "Late Night with Conan O'Brien" and "Things I Hate About You" in addition to "Best Week Ever" and the 2004 film "Terrorists: The Movie."

The event was spurred by last year's comedy shows with Christian Finnegan and Greg Giraldo. When the former could not make it back this year, MCAB decided to book the Best Week Ever tour since Finnegan is a regular on the program.

Sullivan noted, "In addition to Best Week Ever, we are bringing in Stevie Starr, a professional regurgitator, on April 28 and hypnotist Tom Deluca on May 5."

While the turnout to the event may not have been as large as expected, it was still fairly significant. "It isn't easy to get a large crowd out to comedy nights here," commented Sullivan.

Best Week Ever airs Fridays at 11 p.m., EDT, on VH1.

Vlad Lodoaba

Noelle Bullion '08 tells comedian Jessica St. Clair '98 about her "best week ever" in Kenyon Arena last Friday. Her 'best week' was topped by that of first-year Amelia Magistrali, who whacked a three-run homer during a recent softball game.

Facing 'White Privilege'

By Angelica Towne
Staff Writer

Frances Kendall, the facilitator of a March 30 workshop on "White Privilege," opened the event by asking, "Okay, firstly I want everyone tonight to talk from your heart and your gut, not your head. I know academia teaches us to try to sound smart and say what we know we're supposed to say in front of our professors. I would rather have a real conversation than a nice conversation."

Born into an upper-middle class white family in Texas, Kendall attended an expensive private boarding school. She mostly failed her classes at a wealthy private college, then found her passion and was accepted to the University of North Carolina graduate school. She described her undergraduate college as "a school in the middle of the woods for rich white kids whose parents paid for them to ski."

Kendall proceeded to use her own life to map out what exactly she meant by white privilege on an individual level. She almost failed out of college because she didn't like the large size of her classes. She didn't think, she pointed out, about shaming her family. She didn't worry that college would be her only chance at success.

She never agonized about the idea that someone might think she didn't have the ability to perform in college because of her race. She was never told that she was making her people look bad. Like many Middlebury College students, Kendall thought a college education was expected — just like a job after graduation, a family and a home of her own.

"Often people who are white do not know we are white," said Kendall. "But everyone else does! I didn't realize this until I was pushed to think about what it means to be white. We incur the privileges of being white and we can not give them up. We can not decide to be raceless."

After tackling the ways in which white privilege is apparent on an individual level, she introduced the concept of systemic privilege. The room buzzed with questions and small debates. One student argued that today's institutions and systems discriminate based on socioeconomic class rather than race. Kendall responded with a smile. "We'd like to talk about privilege as just class to make us feel better," she said. "True, there are poor whites in this country that would not have the same privileges that I had. But race always trumps class."

Kendall stressed that although white privilege is the responsibility of whites, it does not mean white people are bad. However, the recognition of white privilege is crucial to social progress, she argued. "Minorities in colleges are often expected to act like honorary white people," said Kendall. "They are asked to leave their race at the door. What does this mean? It means that we white people are trained not to see our privileges as such. Then we try to teach minorities not to see white privilege too. We teach 'the way things are.' The problem with white privilege is that it is all done by laws so none of us have to feel responsible. We teach that the system of white privilege is no one's responsibility." Citing a litany of legislation, Kendall argued that discrimination permeates U.S. history and that programs to counteract discrimination have been recent and short-lived.

Kendall said that affirmative action was implemented because corporations and the military wrote to Congress demanding diversity programs. They agitated for change, she argued, because they realized the practical value of peoples whose ideas and talents were suppressed. She urged students to contact their parents and friends to demand more diversity on our campus and in our Congress.

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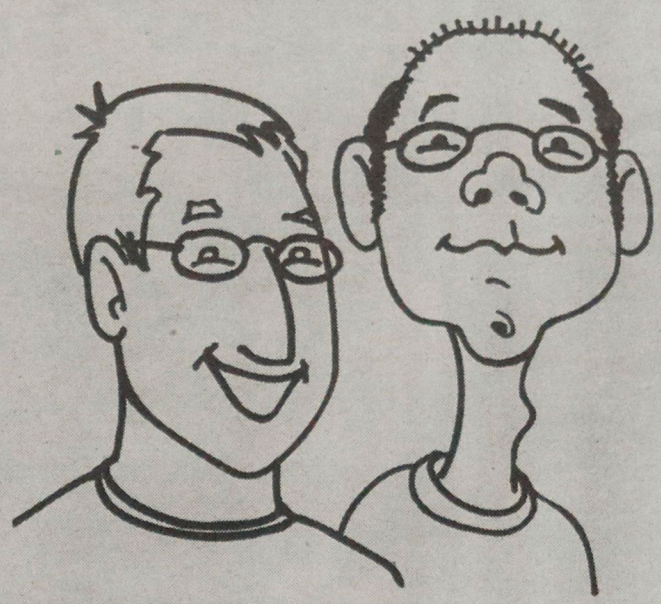

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Fantasies come out of the woods

Sondheim musical spellbinds with new take on fairy-tales

By Caitlin Vincek
Staff Writer

Vlad Lodoaba

Gonzalo Allonso '06, who deserted his son, played by Michael Nevadomski's '09, returns to urge him not to make the same mistakes he did. He encapsulates this message in an emotional song entitled 'No More.'

Vlad Lodoaba

Allison Corke '08 sings the 'Witch's Lament' after failing to protect Rapunzel by locking her in a tower. In this version of the classic fairy tale, Corke's witch character realizes it is impossible to protect by confinement.

Wandeirng into the Hepburn Zoo last weekend was like entering into a storybook. Once the show started, however, was not "Into the Woods," where it's not all princes and castles. Or it was, but with a twist.

Most of the characters — Little Red (of the Riding Hood fame), Jack (who climbed the infamous Beanstalk) and Cinderella (she lost her slipper) — are recognizable, but as the musical progresses, these characters transform from fantastically pure childhood comrades to intriguingly complex strangers. When Little Red's wolf craves not just an afternoon snack, but a "cape as red as blood," a symbol of Red's virginity, or when Jack unleashes a giant that wreaks havoc on the entire village or when Cinderella's prince cheats on her, you thank God your mother never read you *these* stories before bed. These fairy tales are niether utopian fantasy nor horror story, but reality.

Steven Sondheim's "Into the Woods" is about growing up — Little Red "strays from the path" to discover her sexuality. Jack, the Mama's boy, goes off in search of independence and must learn to take responsibility for his actions. Cinderella struggles to find courage and self-respect in a world that does not understand her. A young couple wants a child, but must first learn to cooperate and appreciate each other. A witch locks her daughter, Rapunzel, away in a tower in a desperate attempt to shelter her from the often dark truths of the world. The play highlights the time in life when the sheltered fantasy of childhood begins to give way to the reality of life, and the fairytale characters step off the page and into the real world, where they encounter, for the first time, the obstacles, fears and wishes that everyone experiences.

Middlebury College Musical Players' (MCMP) riveting performance of this unique tale took its audience through a wild range of emotions. We laughed (ironically) at the "Agony" of the Prince Charming brothers — one too dashing for his own good, the other a goofy pseudo skater-boy, played by dynamic duo Michael Tierney '09.5 and Patrick Martinez '09. We sobbed our way through the heartfelt "No One is Alone," in which Cinderella (Laura Budzyna '08) and the Baker (Michael Nevadomski '09) teach us "someone is on your side" and the Baker's Wife (Shannon Gmyrek '06) reminds us "no one leaves for good." We smiled, wide-eyed, at the big voice coming from the small Jack (Dan Kelley '08) in an energetic rendition of "Giants in the Sky." We held our breath during the powerful "No More" by the Baker and his father (Gonzalo Alonso '06) moved by the genuine tears in Nevadomski's eyes. We were chilled by the cold reality of the witch's (Allison Corke '08) "Last Midnight." We cooed at Jack's pouting-and-foot-stomping attempts to convince his mother that he is a man, giggled at Little Red's (Olivia Kerr '08.5) innocence mixed with a cynicism she doesn't know she has and scratched our heads at the puzzling antics of the Mysterious Man (Gonzalo Alonso '06).

At the risk of being ridiculously cheesy, "Into the Woods" was a royal success. Several members of the cast observed that the musical was an incredibly ambitious project for a club that has done less-involved shows in the past. MCMP alum Erin King '04 commented that "Into the Woods" was undoubtedly the best production the club has ever done. She was amazed at how far the club has progressed in its 10-year history.

"We didn't keep anything hidden. Everything was really direct and the undertones were brought up to the front," said Director Kevin Tierney '08. The set and venue were crucial factors — the set was cleverly designed with vines and shadows that actors ducked in and out of, appearing and disappearing as if in the woods. Tierney explained that he envisioned the set to be like a pop-up story book. The cardboard doors, cow and other props created a flat, fantasy world that stood in stark contrast to the very real, human characters. The intimate setting of the Hepburn Zoo also enhanced the show's intensity, allowing for maximal interaction between the audience and actors. Perhaps the only downfall was the near smoldering temperature in the theater, caused by three hours of stage lights and virtually no circulation. "I think I would have enjoyed the singing more if the sweat hadn't been dripping off my nose," said parent Paul Jawin.

And we can't forget the music. The pit consisted of four musicians and a conductor/keyboardist who played tirelessly through three hours of extremely challenging music that fueled show's intensity throughout. Musical director and narrator Mark Barber '06 said, "The thing that's unique about Sondheim's music is that it speaks." Because Sondheim writes music specifically for each character and mood, Barber suggested that you can listen to the music without lyrics and still come away with the message. At the end of the journey, "Into the Woods" leaves its audience with a myriad of profound messages. Among the most important is the idea of moral ambiguity. "There is no standard moral code," explained Budzyna, who, in "No One is Alone" proclaims that "witches can be right, giants can be good, you decide what's right; you decide what's good." The finale cautions us that children learn from our actions even if they appear not to listen to our instructions: "Careful the things you do; children will see and learn. Children may not obey, but children will listen."

It was clear that "Into the Woods" turned fantasy into reality both on and off the stage as the cast gushed enthusiastically about the experience. Gmyrek, for whom "Into the Woods" was a farewell performance, explained that producing the show was "a real dream made reality." Director Tierney echoed these sentiments, emphasizing that he was thrilled to have worked with such a "wonderful [group of] people who wanted to put on a good show." Gmyrek concluded, "I feel really great about leaving the club's future in the hands of such talented and enthusiastic people" — people for whom "happy every after" is never truly the end.

Spotlight on...Hannah and Kate

Dance majors Kate Elias '06 and Hannah Giles '06 talk to *The Middlebury Campus* in anticipation of their collaborative senior project. The performance of original chereography goes up this weekend in the Center for the Arts Dance Theatre.

***The Campus:* What were your main artistic goals in creating this concert? What ideas or emotions do you want to express?**

Kate Elias: My main artistic goals are to challenge myself to really strip away the layers of thought around an idea and find the "kernel of truth" — always asking questions about choices and getting to the bottom of my reasons for making them. In this way, I see whether the movement material I've come up with needs to be manipulated and made more expressive of a certain idea, or if it is justified in its original form.

This concert is built on a foundation of collaboration, so expressing the dynamics of relationships is a central theme. My friendship with Hannah, my relationship with my dad [see below], the shifting rapports we have with ourselves — I am very interested in exploring how those everyday relationships manifest themselves on-stage, and how performing them changes them, reinforces them, provides a deeper understanding of them.

Bob Handelman

***TC:* How long have you two been dancing together? How does having such a strong relationship affect your performance?**

KE: Hannah and I have been dancing together pretty much nonstop since freshman year when we met in our first-year seminar — our first dance class at Middlebury. We've only been in a few pieces together, however, and this concert has given us a great opportunity to work with each other very closely, understand more about each other's processes and deepen our friendship.

Hannah Giles: It's funny because dancing with people requires and creates a very intense intimacy that does not require knowledge of the dancers outside of the studio. Kate and I met because of dance, but our friendship definitely holds water outside the world of dance as well, and that translates back into our easeful working relationship in the studio. I think we understand each other pretty well most of the time and are quite familiar with the each other's bodies and movement styles, so it was a really nice, smooth process to put together the duet collaboratively.

KE: It comes with its challenges, though. I think any two people would experience some tension in their relationship when they spend so many long days together trying to solve problems. Recently, we were in Boston for the American College Dance Festival performing a duet that we choreographed together. We'd been on tour together just a couple weeks before, so we had been in close quarters for a long time, and I was cranky. I think our dancing always reflects how we're feeling about each other — when we're off in our friendship, we're off-balance and rough in our dancing, but when we're thinking and dealing well with each other, we're much more in tune with each other onstage. So before we went onstage in Boston I said, "Okay Han, this is only going to go well if we love each other very much." Sometimes we need to just say it out loud, and things are fine.

***TC:* How would you describe the style of the piece? Are you each bringing something different into the show or do you mainly stick to the same tastes?**

KE: There are six pieces on the program — two solos, two group pieces and two duets. Each of them definitely has its own distinct style, although there is a common thread of Hannah and I wanting US — our personalities and relationships — to come through in a tangible way. This isn't about masking who we are behind a film of dancing. It's about revealing who we are as real people through dancing. Hopefully the concert is more accessible because of that. Hopefully even people who don't know us will get a sense of what we're about.

Hannah and I have very different styles of dancing — I tend to be more awkward and spastic, Han is incredibly graceful and so open. I know that both of us have been trying to break these movement habits for a long time, and I see it very clearly especially in our solos: It's almost like we're trying to dance more like each other, in a way. She's trying to inject more of the awkward into her movement, and I'm trying to be more expansive and elegant.

HG: There is a definite aesthetic that we both have assimilated during the course of our dance education here at Middlebury, but we also came in with different trainings, very different bodies,and different styles of movement. One of the things we try to do as choreographers is push ourselves out of our comfort zones, so that we don't end up always doing that one move that we really love, but instead take it a step further, ask more questions and thwart ourselves in a certain way. When Kate and I work together, we can trade phrases of movement and automatically are doing something we wouldn't come up with ourselves, which is often more interesting.

***TC:* I've read that the program also features contributions from family and friends. How have they contributed to the piece?**

KE: This is one of the most exciting things for me about the concert. My dad, Gerald Elias, composed the music for my solo, called "V'adoro", and he is going to be here to perform it live. The piece is based on "V'adoro, pupille," a very beautiful Handel aria from the opera Julius Caesar. We've been working collaboratively over the past year or so, sending CDs and videotapes and lots of emails back and forth, to get it all put together. My dad is a great musician and a great composer, so it's quite a legacy that I've stepped into.

HG: We each have made pieces on groups of other people, both quintets, which we don't dance in. The dancers in those pieces are our friends — some were friends of ours before dancing with us, and others we have gotten to know through these dances. It's been great, and they're really game for anything, have been so generous with their time and energy and have worked incredibly hard over the last three months.

The people who are part of the dance program, our professors, the technical director and her staff, are all amazing people we've worked with for four years — definitely also friends. We're really lucky in our support network, and a bunch of people are working to make this concert come to life.

KE: Also, Peter Schmitz, a beloved former faculty member, came back to Middlebury to set an old duet of his on us. In 1986, Peter made "Your First Fall" with Matt Brown, who was a student at the time. Peter brought up the old video, and we learned the feeling and structure of the piece. Some of our new version is excerpted exactly from the 1986 original, but Peter gave us the assignment of inventing our own movement to insert into the existing structure. It was a really interesting learning experience to reconcile these two forms of the piece. The biggest challenge was trying to become Peter and Matt — we spent a lot of time channeling our inner scrappy young men.

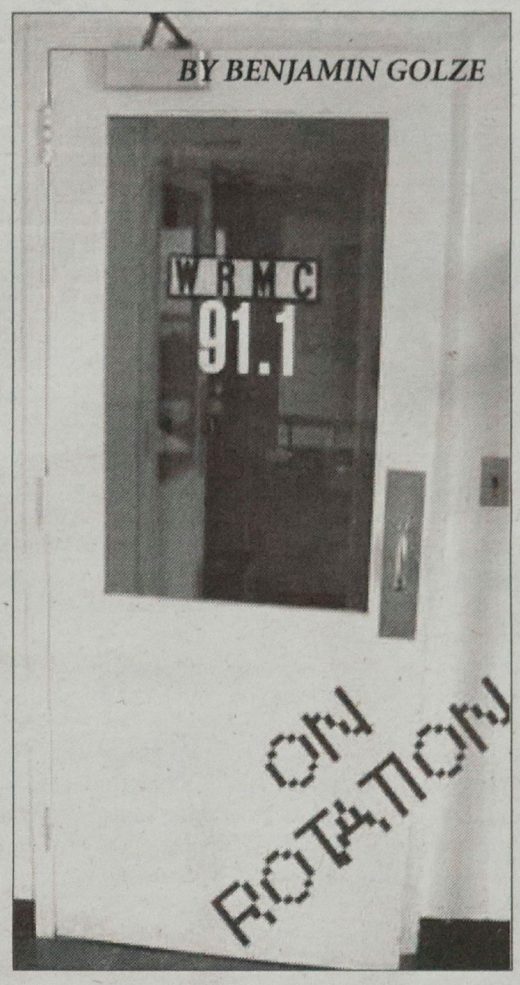
***TC:* What factors, experiences or people have influenced this piece, or your dancing in general?**

KE: Oh, everything, everyone. As cheesy as it sounds, graduation has played a major part in this process. I've been thinking a lot about transitions, boundaries, broadening frontiers and other themes such as mild insanity that graduation brings up. I think several of the pieces speak to that. My family has definitely been a strong influence, especially my dad, for this particular concert. They are all deeply artistic, creative people in music, visual art and education, so I'm always on my toes trying to live up to their high standards of artistry. That's good. Amy Chavasse, Penny Campbell, Andrea Olsen and Jenn Ponder in the dance department have taught us most of what we know about how to dance, how to make dances, and how to see dances so they have been major players in the process.

***TC:* Has this been a satisfying way to cap off your artistic experience at Middlebury? Do you plan to continue dance after you graduate?**

KE: It's incredibly satisfying to be able to share this show with Hannah, a person who has shaped so much of my college experience. In a lot of ways I wish I had more time to work, to go deeper with the choreography and tie up more loose ends. On the other hand, there is really never an end to this process, so I'm trying to convince myself that this is just a pause in the whole story, not an ending point.

— Sarah Jameson



BY BENJAMIN GOLZE

Two events of note happened last week.

#1: Meowsker, live at Pub Night

Let's face it: for all its popularity, Thursday night Pub Night at the Grill hasn't been the best place to hear music at Middlebury. Campus mainstays like the Easy Answers, the Dark Horse Candidates and the Doughboys put on good shows, of course. They actually get people to cross that invisible line formed by the second story overhang and, on occasion, dance a bit. The off-campus bands, for me at least, have been a bit lackluster. In fact, they've made such an impression that I can't even remember a single one, besides one group from California that wore trendy designer jeans. I don't really know why I remember that.

Such are the circumstances that promoted my extremely pleasant surprise last Thursday night. I must preface the rest of this paragraph by saying that I'm not sure any of this information is true. I merely pieced it together from snippets from people attending, friends of the band and stuff I found online. The newly formed group is called Meowsker, previously the name of the the keyboardist/lead singer's solo act (Matt Rudnicki). The other two members (Chicagoans Michael Cheever and Jeff Neuberger) are from another band called Osos something. They currently reside in Boston, but they are all about to move to Brooklyn to pursue music in as much of a full-time manner as possible.

Which, by the way, I think is a good idea. If you haven't guessed already, Meowsker is the best band to have played at Pub Night all year, and the best new music that I've heard in a long time. Their arrangement — keyboard, drums and bass — creates a quirky sound that falls somewhere around the likes of Clap Your Hands Say Yeah!, brought to full effect by Rudnicki's vocals. His singing doesn't immediately bring to mind any easy reference (which I hope is a compliment), but they do have a carefree feeling that fits perfectly.

The huge variety of the set on Thursday night was impressive as well. The band handled everything from lounge-style crooners to old-time dance numbers. Several times the music slipped into a bland kind of indie rock that didn't play to their strengths and actually exacerbated their weaknesses (no guitar). Even still, those songs weren't bad, especially considering the performance the band put on. Fake crowd noises between songs and a countdown to New Year's 2007 marked the beginning of the set, an audacious move with only about 20 non-fans in the Grille at that point. I can only imagine how well they'd play to a full, eager crowd. Check 'em out on Myspace.com.

#2: Opera, live at CFA

I didn't expect to write so much about Meowsker, so I'm going to have to keep this one undeservedly short. On Friday, Daniel Donnelly '06 rocked CFA old school style with his senior project: directing Claudio Monteverdi's "Il Ballo delle Ingrate." I'm not sure what exactly to call it, but it's pretty much a mini-opera without a plot. The premise is that Cupid and some other goddess of love or something have a whole discussion with the lord of the underworld about the fate of women who don't, ahem, succumb to their suitors' advances. Or something.

The reason I'm not too clear on the background is because I was too busy being blown away by the performance. Jenna Boyle '06 and First-year Amanda Kleinman were impressive, but I think Scott Guenther '06 stole the whole damn show. I had no idea anyone at school could sing a bass part like that, all in Italian no less. And his costume as the dark lord included spats. Where do you get those? All in all, the entire thing sounded like a professional production. Kudos to Dan for a job well done.

Late-start jazz artist jumpstarts Middlebury

By Melissa Marshall
Staff Writer

No programs were distributed at the Middlebury College Center for the Arts on Saturday night — the audience would have to submit themselves to the smooth rhythms and changing beats of the Miles Donahue Band without a sheet of folded paper to highlight the stops along the way. However, the crowded room, filled with students, town residents and faculty, did not seem to mind being at the mercy of a man who didn't get serious about jazz until he was 45 years old.

Prior to Donahue's heart and soul commitment to a genre, which defies definition, he spent 20 years playing pianos at typical lounge gigs, weddings and parties to support his family. Christopher Lizotte '07, host of the WRMC Jazz show "Bebob and Beyond," interviewed the group. According to him, this move was a significant gamble. "Practically no one, even so-called 'superstars,' can make a living just playing jazz — they have to teach as well," said Lizotte. "Another way that musicians continue to make a living is by crossing over into more popular types of music. Take Medeski, Martin and Wood, for example. Their collective improvisation and relatively static harmony is characteristic of the 'jam band' phenomenon, and same goes for the Jazz Mandolin, Project, Soulive and John Scofield."

However, for starting so late in life, Donahue has made quite an impression on the industry, recording a couple of high-quality CDs on Ram Records before establishing his own company, entitled Amerigo Records, in 2002.

Live performance seemed to come as easy as breathing to Donahue on Saturday night. His soulful renditions revived Middlebury College, which, according to Lizotte, has scarcely been visited by jazz musicians from outside Vermont in the last five years.

In his debut performance at Middlebury College, Miles Donahue was accompanied by John Lockwood on the bass, Alain Mallet from France on the piano and Marcello Pelliperi from Italy on the drums. As such, they were a group of performers lending themselves well to Middlebury's reputation of promoting international diversity. Dorothy Mitchell '09 commented, saying, "I was impressed by the fact that even though three of musicians were reading off music scores for many of the songs, they sounded like they had the songs memorized. The members of the quartet played off… each other amazingly well."

Donahue was predictably stellar on the saxophone as well as on the trumpet, being hailed by Boston Globe jazz critic Bob Blumental as "one of the best-kept jazz secrets… Equally adept on trumpet and various saxophones and a composer of grace and originality." However, a stand-out surprise and audience favorite was drummer Pelliperi, who stunned the audience with a snare solo using his bare hands in the second half of the concert. This display of artistic improvisation won over Abel Fillion '09, who was initially somewhat skeptical.

"I was a little worried after the first set, but they came back with a stronger second half, starting out with a sweet Latin groove, and the drummer played an awesome solo," said Fillion. "Also," he said, "[Pelliperi] looked like Nigel from Spinal Tap, which is cool."

The concert, which was innovative at times and had the audience tapping their feet and bopping their heads almost the whole way through, featured mostly Donahue originals, a few of which were based on changes to standard tunes, such as "It Could Happen to You" and "Mobilized," which is based on Charlie Parker's "Confirmation." Some of Donahue's tunes, including "Uppy," "Bounce" and "Ditchdigger" leaned more to fusion-oriented mixed with a rock vibe, while others were more straight-ahead swing tunes, and still some classics managed to slip themselves in, such as Miles Davis's "Donna Lee."

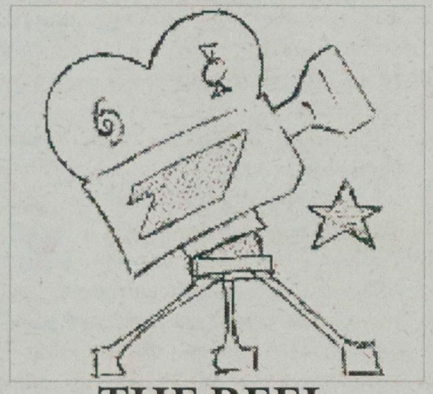
The end of the performance finally made it clear why no programs were given out at the beginning — the program apparently sang for itself.

Megan Hughes

Donahue, called one jazz's "best-kept secrets," reveals the mysteries behind his talent as he unleashes a melody on his saxophone. Next to him, Lockwood provides some verve on his bass.

Megan Hughes

Members of the quartet performed at the Center for the Arts. Donahue and Lockwoord stand by as Mallet takes the tune away on the piano.



THE REEL CRITIC

BY JOE BERGAN

MOVIE | THANK YOU FOR SMOKING
DIRECTOR | JASON REITMAN
STARRING | AARON ECKHART, MARIA BELLO, WILLIAM H. MACY, KATIE HOLMES, ADAM BRODY

It is rare to come across a good satire in these days of safe plot lines and characters who flirt with the edge but do not jump right in. "Thank You for Smoking," however, takes the full plunge. Once you get the courage to go to Burlington to see this gem, desensitize yourself first. Get George Carlin on tape, shoot a gun, eat red meat, for never has a trip out of the "Middlebubble" been so holistic and cleansing. This is satire at its finest. A good satire allows one to indulge in the non-politically correct, and through laughs realize how bad that thing is (See "Bamboozled," "Dr. Strangelove" for further examples). It is rare to find a great satire that molds form to function.

The film, based on the novel by Christopher Buckley, follows Nick Naylor, (Aaron Eckhart), the lead tobacco lobbyist in Washington as he fights a Vermont senator (William H. Macy) who attempts to put "poison" labels on all cigarette packages. This sends him into a frenzy. Nick quickly loses control with only his two other friends, Polly Bailey (Maria Bello) and Bobby Jay Bliss (David Koechner, of "Anchorman" and "Whammy!" fame) to support him. These fellow lobbyists represent the alcohol and firearms industry, respectively. In a similar narration style to "Amelie," there are a lot of laughs in their exposition. Nick's smooth-talking narration allows you to see why he's as satisfying a guilty pleasure as the cigarettes he pushes. He explains, "You know the guy that can get any girl? I'm him…on crack."

The cast has some heavy hitters — William H. Macy as the Vermont senator, Katie Holmes as a sexy reporter — but also some purely refreshing faces. The young Cameron Bright is right on as Nick Naylor's son is entering the age at which most underachievers run to the convenience store and try to pass as eighteen. Adam Brody, *The O.C.* star, almost steals the show as the perfectly-written Hollywood secretary.

Though the performances keep you laughing, the tone of this film is perfect for satire. From the 1950s country soundtrack to Nick Naylor's perfectly frosted hair, one realizes, however, that the guilty pleasure of this film is more than cigarettes: it's the American way of life and the American government. This film is a big stack of pancakes at IHOP or a Big Mac — yeah it will kill you, but hell, I'm an American.

Get George Carlin on tape, shoot a gun, eat red meat, for never has a trip out of the "Middbubble" been so holistic and cleansing.

"Thank You for Smoking" is not about smoking or cancer, or thanks. It is about the irony that is America, a country supposedly ruled by "the people," but where mounting evidence suggests that money rules all. A small sign sits behind the table where Nick and his friends eat everyday — it's one of those stitched pillows you find in your grandma's house. Throughout the film, it clearly reads: "America, the best government money can buy."

This movie embraces the type of humor that is appropriate when you are yachting around the Caribbean making a deal that will put deadly chemicals into a water source and give children cancer, and you laugh a bit, because you are going to be filthy rich. Then you have an affair with the help on the ship. That's how Nick Naylor, the Republicans and the Democrats of this movie's world operate. Everyone is looking out for number one.

Like a cigarette, "Thank You for Smoking" presents the "American Dream" as a quick drag of a menthol. You may think you'll be Humphrey Bogart, but you'll probably just get lung cancer.

Nick Naylor repeats throughout the film "I do it for the mortgage," and isn't that what America is? Everyone spins, tries to tell themselves that they do it for the trees, or the children, or the whales. This movie scoffs at this notion, and maybe we will too, when, in a couple of years, you will beg for room draw to find you a house that people clean daily.

"Thank You for Smoking" plays at Merrill's Roxy Theatres, College St., Burlington.

Cupid's arrow strikes a chord

Vlad Lodoaba

Singing a warning to the cold-hearted women of the world, Aphrodite, played by Jenna Boyle '06, joins Scott Guenther '06 in Monteverdi's 17th century opera "Il Ballo Delle Ingrate." This performance, less politically correct than most, called for all women who turn away their suitors to reform their hearts, lest they fall into the dark underworld of Hades.

Editors' A&E picks
for the week of 2/23 - 3/1

20

MCAB PUB NIGHT FEATURING EL GRINGO
9-11 p.m. in The Grille
Rock, hip-hop, funk, soul and country combine to create El Gringo's unique, energetic and utterly danceable sound. The Boston-based four-piece comes to Middlebury tonight with their self-described "Cactus Funk Punk" and "Sexy Hick Music" influenced by the likes of Merle Haggard, Frank Zappa, Little Feat and Widespread Panic.

21

THE LEGEND OF COFRESI
Friday 8-10 and 10-12 p.m. and Saturday 2-4 and 10-12 p.m. in McCullough Social Space
Tickets $3/$4/$5
Written by Kevin Velez '06 and directed by Teddy Crecelius '08, this original musical follows the thrilling tale of a young girl as she finds swashbuckling adventure on the tropical island of Puerto Rico during the golden age of pirates. Chock full of comedy, drama and student talent, "The Legend of Cofresi" is not to miss.

22

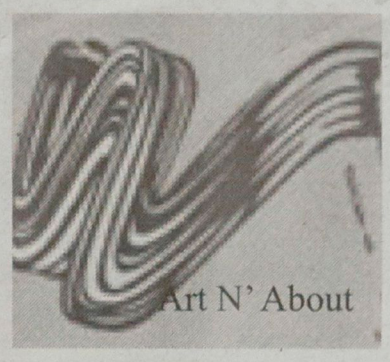
THE DYNAMIC DUO: DANCES BY KATE ELIAS AND HANNAH GILES Friday and Saturday 8-10 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Dance Theatre
Tickets $3/$4/$5
Kate Elias '06 and Hannah Giles '06 join together in a night of original choreography and music. Their shared senior concert combines solos, duets, group pieces and choreographic and musical contributions from family and friends to create a performance of innovative artistic vision and effervescent dance.

22

SETTING POETRY TO MUSIC
7-8 p.m. in the Center for the Arts Concert Hall
Music Department Chair Peter Hamlin talks about the relationship between poetry and music, especially focusing on his new piece "Nature Revisited," a composition set to and inspired by the poems by celebrated poet and Professor of English & Creative Writing Jay Parini. The Middlebury College Chamber Choir will perform live excerpts of the music following the lecture.

24

ACTIONABLE INTELLIGENCE: PRESENTATION BY ARTIST DANNY GOODWIN
4:30-6 p.m. in Johnson 304
New York based artist Danny Goodwin will talk about his photography, video, digital media and sculptural installation. His diverse oeuvre deals primarily with issues of surveillance, secrecy and deception, especially in relation to the United States intelligence community. Goodwin is Associate Professor of Art and the Director of the Combined Media Program in the Art Department at the State University of New York in Albany.



WITH JOYCE MAN

At the confluence of art and politics is a choice: construction or destruction. In war, the division becomes starker, as nations assert their own identities through art and try to eradicate the culture of the "other" by reducing it to negative simplifications. In his critically-acclaimed book, *War is a Force That Gives Us Meaning*, Chris Hedges wrote, "Every society, ethnic group or religion nurtures certain myths, often centered around the creation of the nation or the movement itself." Such myths, he said, force people apart by stressing their differences, and turn colorful national characteristics into stream-lined propaganda pieces.

Hence, under the directive of creating nationalism through art, we have posters of Lenin and Stalin, the Nazi swastika, Chinese youth of the cultural revolution waiving copies of the Little Red Book, and we have "Maoroabilia." Many times in history, art has been sacrificed for political machinations. Conflicts consume poets and writers, leeching life of creativity. The most recent blockbuster, "V for Vendetta," used, re-used and recycled this idea with bold reds and blacks, stylized publicity typefaces and wide-angle shots of marching masses. The comparison to the degenerative art of the Nazi, Soviet and Maoist regimes was unmistakable.

Yet, if oftentimes art has failed to survive in the trenches and at the faultlines, it has also shown itself to be full of potential as a regenerating force, and in the Middle East, an unlikely band of brothers is proving exactly this point.

Conflict is no laughing matter in Iraq, Israel and Palestine, where the only things to breach faultlines and break headlines are bombs and bullets. But Boomchucka, a squadron of high-minded clowns featured in the *Economist* this week, are zipping through these countries armed to the teeth with smiles and loaded with jokes as ammunition. Their goal? To raise an understanding of the reality of life on the grounds and to bring a rare dose of humor to the children who live there.

Formerly called the Circus2Iraq, Boomchucka feels like your standard bunch of peace-loving hippies. They hail from the vibrant theater streets of Bristol, UK and call themselves an "unincorporated co-operative." Their website, a blog renumerating every activity, from fundraising to on-the-ground projects, is informal. Their ideas seem naïve — they say one of their goals is to bring Palestinian and Israeli kids together even while conceding that these kids "grow into adults who oppress or kill each other."

A while ago, I had a conversation with a seasoned journalist who had seen Russia in its turbulent early days and interviewed many high-level people — incoming, outgoing, threatened leaders — in the unstable post-Soviet region. "You want to write about arts?" he asked. "Well, I write about the real news."

Thankfully, some of the real news this week from the Middle East puts art back into context.

The Middlebury Campus

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EDITOR IN CHIEF

AND

MANAGING EDITOR

FOR THE FALL 2006 SEMESTER

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Answers - Sudoku

Runners take on Boston Marathon

By Sarah Luehrman
Staff Writer

To run a marathon in itself is a truly outstanding achievement, but Middlebury seniors Lacee Patterson and Georgia Jolink didn't choose just any marathon they chose the Boston Marathon. On Monday, April 17, Patterson and Jolink were two of 20,117 runners to line up in Hopkinton, Mass., at the starting line of the 110th Boston Marathon and two of 19,688 to cross the finish line 26.2 miles east at Copley Square in downtown Boston. Over 1 million spectators were estimated to have attended the event, which has become a Patriot's Day tradition in Boston as prestigious as any.

Not only is the Boston Marathon the oldest and most exclusive in the world, requiring most runners to achieve a qualifying time in order to enter, it is hailed by many as one of the toughest, particularly notorious for its hills. Jolink finished in four hours, two minutes and 35 seconds, averaging 9:16/mile, and Patterson finished in 3 hours, 43 minutes and 29 seconds, averaging 8:32/mile. "I won't say the Boston Marathon is the hardest thing I've ever done," said Jolink, who was available for comment before and after the race, "just *one* of the hardest."

Marathoners train for months for the big event, and many of those who wish to run Boston must run another marathon in the preceding year in order to establish a qualifying time. Jolink and Patterson, however, ran with the Multiple Sclerosis Society and were therefore entered without having to qualify. They applied to run with the team and were accepted along with 48 other runners with a connection to MS. Invitation to run with the team requires participants to raise at least $2,500 each. Patterson and Jolink ran on behalf of Patterson's mother, Susan Patterson, a veteran marathoner who was diagnosed with MS several years ago. Susan remains, in Jolink's words, "really healthy and just an inspiring woman." She ran the New York City marathon last fall and plans to run the Chicago marathon in October. For Jolink and Patterson, Boston 2006 was the first marathon, undertaken for an important cause and for a love of running.

I won't say the Boston Marathon is the hardest thing I've ever done... just *one* of the hardest.

— Georgia Jolink '06

Jolink began running recreationally as a high school student and decided to join the cross-country team her senior year "in an attempt to stay in shape." She discovered, however, that she hated being forced to run, "especially to run fast," so she ran the bare minimum of cross-country meets necessary to get a letter. "I know, I was a slacker," she confessed. Upon her arrival at Middlebury, however, Jolink met other girls who ran recreationally, including Patterson, so she began running again, starting with three-mile runs and gradually increasing her mileage. Her sophomore year, she ran two half marathons, and "that's when I got the marathon bug," she recalled. "I thought, if I can do 13.1, I can do twice that. Admitting to that last statement puts me in a very small percentile of people that can only be classified as crazy running fanatics." To be more precise, Jolink's and Patterson's accomplishment in running Boston puts them in the .01 percent of Americans who have finished a marathon.

Two days before the race, both women were "ready to run the damn thing," in Jolink's words. Indeed, they have been training since December and persisted through the elements of a Vermont winter to get those long training runs in. Amazingly enough, though she was running 30-50 miles a week during training, Jolink reports having been driven inside to the treadmill only twice. "I guess I took every road out of Middlebury at one point or another," she said, "and somehow ended up back at home." Finding a way to sustain oneself during a distance run is always a challenge, and one that the women addressed creatively. "I used the church in Weybridge as a water stop — lots of drinking from the faucet using my hand — and I would do loops around my house for another water stop," says Jolink. She also claims that "Gatorade and Powergels have saved my life," even though she once thought of Gatorade as "an excuse to drink sugar instead of water."

It takes a tough body and an even tougher mentality, but it can be done.

— Georgia Jolink '06

Patterson and Jolink's training program provided by their MS team captain consisted of five runs a week. They acknowledge that the challenges of training in Vermont, particularly its hilly roads, prepared them well for Boston, providing a warm-up for the rapid changes in elevation that runners must endure throughout. Indeed, the physical and mental trial of the infamous hill section is one of the features that make Boston such a challenging marathon. But the prep work was done for Patterson and Jolink; they had logged the miles, they had been carbo-loading for two days, and they were as ready as they were going to be.

The course begins in Hopkinton, Mass. with runners starting in waves, fighting to avoid being trampled at the start line. After four miles of downhills, runners experience a moderately flat section of about eight miles before another downhill stretch about two miles long. Said Jolink, "I would advise anyone running Boston to start out slower than you want to at the beginning.... the downhill feels so good, and then you pay for it when your quads don't work at the end of the race."

At the 16-mile mark, the course begins to climb, gradually at first, to a sharp increase in elevation between miles 19 and 21 in Newton, Mass. This is known as Heartbreak Hill, and it has earned its name from 110 years of runners struggling to conquer it, having already run 19 miles. Once they reach the top, as they cross from Newton into Brookline, the elevation drops again, and they are in the home stretch. Jolink, however, having trained through the rolling hills of Middlebury and its surrounding area, confesses that she didn't even know she had climbed Heartbreak Hill. "In fact, since your toes have been driving into your shoes from running downhill and braking constantly," she remarked, "that part feels really good on feet, butt and legs." The toughest part for Jolink was reaching mile 24, but once she was there, she knew she would make it. In those moments when she wasn't sure she could finish, "I thought how ridiculous I would feel if I dropped out after working so hard and running so far."

After crossing the finish line, being wrapped in the traditional space blanket and enduring an hour of delirium, Jolink said she refreshed herself with Gatorade, food, a shower and a massage. "I realized that anyone can run a marathon if they really want to," said Jolink, looking back on the race. "It takes a tough body and an even tougher mentality, but it can be done."

Golfers stumble in N.Y.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 28

Kelly Ortega, both abroad, are crucial missing links of the team this spring. Within a few years, the squad hopes to have a fully developed program and a number one national ranking — the team turned varsity only two and a half years ago.

The men also started their spring season in Georgia at the Jekyll Island Collegiate Invitational. A total of 24 teams were invited to play, all of which compete at a very high level. The Panthers finished 18th with strong efforts all around. Harrison Bane '08.5 led the team with a three-day total of 235. Veteran junior Chad Bellmare finished one stroke back to tie for 60th. Captain Mitch St. Peter, class of '06, placed third on the team with 244 while sophomores George Baumann and Jeff Patterson scored 248 and 252, respectively. Many of the golfers were discouraged by these results but quickly rebounded their efforts for this past weekend.

On April 16-17, Skidmore College held the Palamountain Intercollegiate Golf Tournament. The Panthers finished ninth among the 12 participating teams, including regional rivals Williams. Baumann made an impressive jump from his finish in Georgia by co-leading the team with Bane, each finishing in 24th place with a two-day total of 162. Bellmare ended with 165, followed by St. Peter (167) and junior Brett Sherriffs (178). This tournament was a good opportunity for the team to regroup, especially individually. Captain St. Peter explained that "golf builds character. As with other individual sports, one has to rely entirely on one's self in order to do well." All of the golfers on the team have been very supportive of each other, which has certainly helped improve their play of crucial moments.

EDITORS' PICKS

Questions of the week:	*Zamir Ahmed*	*Tom McCann*	*Ryan W. Reese*
Will the baseball team win its series against Amherst this weekend?	YES The team has won nine straight and I don't see the Lord Jeffs stopping these surging sluggers.	YES This team has proved it can win the close ones, and if it goes down to the wire, you'd have to favor the Panthers.	YES They're playing with heart and I like their chances. They're going to take the NESCAC by storm come playoff time.
Will Renehan '06 or Perencevich '06 score more goals for the women's lacrosse team against Wesleyan?	PERENCEVICH I'll go with Alison because she's scored one more goal this season through nine games.	RENEHAN This is a real toss up, but I'm calling Lizzy to provide the "O'"this week — she's been a powerhouse of late.	RENEHAN They are completely equal. The only reasoning behind this pick is the fact that her name is closer to mine in the alphabet.
Will Chris Shelton still be leading the American League in homeruns by April 25?	YES He'll keep up his torrid pace this week but I wouldn't count on him being on top at the end of the season.	NO He's started well, but the AL is stacked and I'm pretty confident he's going to cool off right about now.	NO Thome, Hafner and Big Papi will get into their respective rhythms and dethrone little Chris.
All-Time Record:	**20 - 19 (.513)**	**27 - 12 (.692)**	**20 - 19 (.513)**

By Justin Golenbock

In their most recent magazine, ESPN decided to run their cover story on a spanking fresh topic in sports journalism: Barry Bonds.

Now, the presence of pop journalist Chuck Klosterman notwithstanding, I figured hey, worth a read. Without giving anything away, save the three minutes. In fact, after finishing this article, NEVER READ ANOTHER WORD ABOUT BARRY BONDS AGAIN.

Anyone who has been paying attention to mainstream sports journalism in the past, say, three years, shouldn't need that advice. For some reason Barry Bonds and steroid abuse have become synonymous, and, more importantly, have become the most publicized story in sports.

Let me lay out my own position: I believe definitively that Barry Bonds intentionally used performance enhancing drugs to become a better baseball player. I also think the same is true about a fair percentage of major-leaguers in the last decade, pitchers and hitters both, and that this percentage probably lies somewhere between the reported 5-7 percent of failed drug tests, and the bogusly enlarged 50+ percent hyperbole we've heard in the news.

But enough is enough. I'm sure that Barry Bonds is probably just as much of an asshole as has been reported — after all, enough people have said so by now, right? That, plus he broke a lot of records because he cheated, blah blah blah, save the children, yada yada, and there's your villain.

Yet are assholes, even record-breaking assholes, new in sports? In baseball? I'm pretty certain Barry Bonds is not a worse human being than was the great Ty Cobb, who filed his spikes and was an active member of the Klan, or the best second baseman in history, Rogers Hornsby, whose gambling and cantankerous personality had him traded six times. One of the most famous baseball cheaters of all-time, Shoeless Joe Jackson, has been apologized for in one of the most famous baseball movies of all-time.

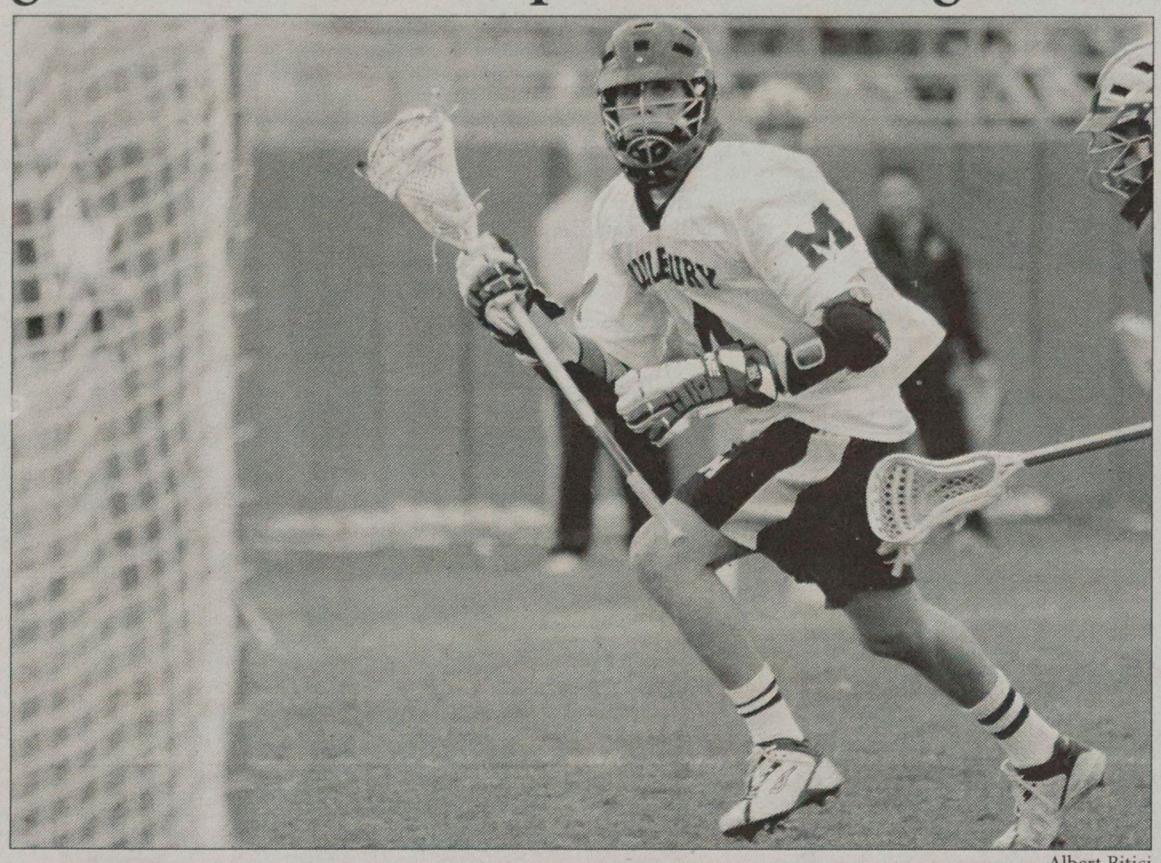
But Bonds is different, because he's going to pass the great Babe Ruth in home runs. It's that fact that led Klosterman to de-claim the "emotional importance" of statistics, and declare that numbers, as any meaningful comparison between eras, are dead. But there's nothing emotional about the statistical record. Rob Neyer said it best when he was asked about the possibility of officially "asterixing" Bonds' records: The stats are the stats, and they're just the stats. What's the point?

And if you think Ruth's numbers are any less subjective than those of Bonds, then you are CRAZY (LOCO). The 1930s were an offensive era when Major League Baseball was devoid of diversity, there was no significant minor league system or comprehensive scouting and development process. Does that make his stats any less real? No, they're just stats, to be taken in their historical context like any other. Relax about the record books and you might just find that the game Bonds has so "polluted" is still around and going strong.

Panthers prevail in dramatic fashion

Midd lets eight goal halftime lead slip before winning in OT

By Geoff Homer
Staff Writer



Albert Bitici

The men's lacrosse team won a tight game on the road at Bowdoin, overcoming the Polar Bears 12-11 in overtime.

Playing in front of an overwhelmingly hostile Bowdoin crowd of roughly 1000 Polar Bear students and alumni, lined two and three deep on the sideline, the Middlebury men's lacrosse team held on for the victory in overtime. The 12-11 victory was the first victory at Brunswick that members of the 2006 squad had been a part of. The game was anything but ordinary, as players from both squads commented it was one of the strangest games they had ever played in. As Travis Meyer '06 confirmed, "It was the most contrasting game of lacrosse that I have ever been a part of. To be up by eight at half and almost throw the game away to win in overtime at Bowdoin is something I won't soon forget."

Coming into the game, the Panthers knew it was going to be a battle. Bowdoin is traditionally one of Middlebury's biggest league rivals, and the game had added importance because of league standings, since both teams had only one loss prior to the contest. On the mindset of the team, Co-captain Meyer said, "Playing Bowdoin on the road means that you can throw out the records and the comparative scores because Bowdoin always plays hard at home." With their victory at home against Tufts earlier in the week, the squad was confident and fired up to start the game.

The Panthers stormed out of the gates to open the game, playing their best half of lacrosse this season. Dominating on both sides of the ball, the Panther defense shut down the Polar Bear offense as Gabe Wood '06 played phenomenally against one of the best players in the league. The attack moved the ball with precision allowing J.P. Coviello '06 to score four goals and Jim Cabrera '08 to add three of his own. The midfield, led by Peter Mellen '07, controlled the face-offs and created numerous fast-break opportunities and dictated the pace of the game. By the end of the half, the Panthers were up 11-3 with goals from Jeff Pello '06, Hank Sheehan '06 and Nick Bastis '07, in addition to those of Coviello and Cabrera.

Going into halftime, the team was confident as they had been all season. "Everything was clicking for us," said Meyer. "Alex Palmisano ['07] was making saves, the defense was creating turnovers, and the offense was creating opportunities and finishing them." However, the Panthers knew Bowdoin wouldn't give up without a fight. As expected, Bowdoin came out firing and scored the first goal of the half off a broken clear. Explaining Bowdoin's resurgence, Sheehan said, "Bowdoin scored a goal, made a couple offensive and defensive adjustments, and won a couple face-offs. Once they had the momentum, our offense couldn't score a goal to break their run." Bowdoin's play mirrored that of the Panther's first half, with Polar Bear Ryan Hurd tying the game up in the fourth quarter, sending it to overtime.

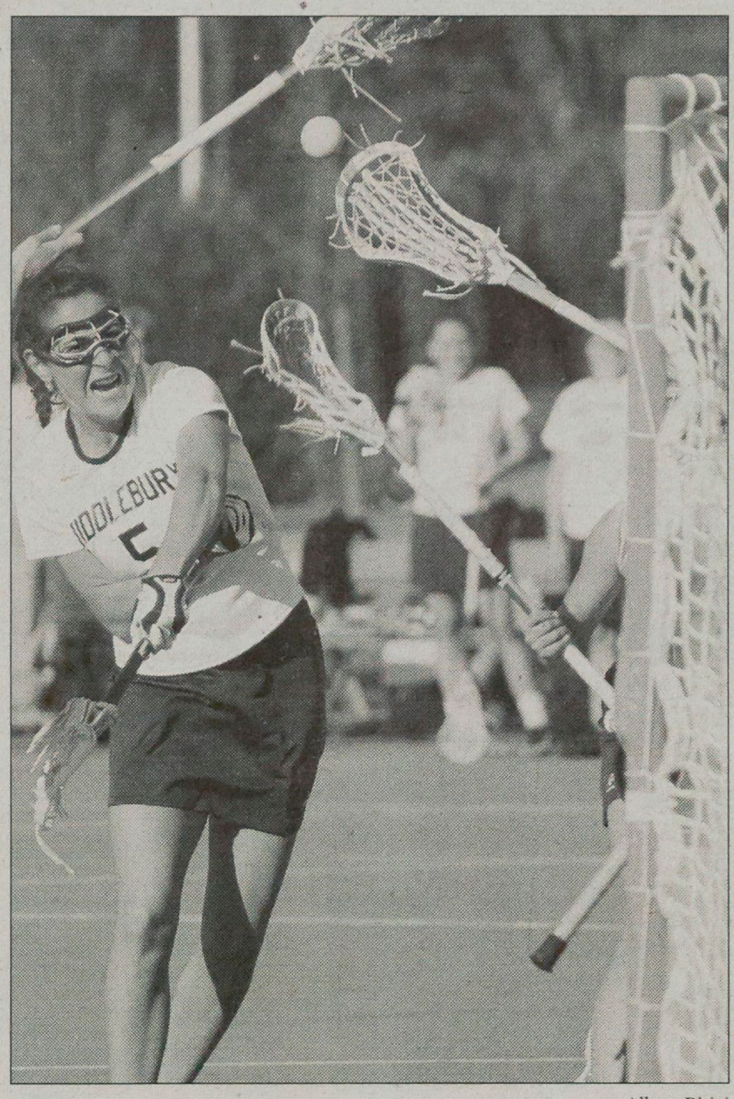
Going into overtime, Coach Quinn reminded his team that the second half was over, and they had a fresh chance to win the game. The Panthers lost the opening face-off, but in what was arguably the play of the game, long-stick midfielder Glenn Bickley '08 made a great check before Bowdoin was able get in the box to call a time-out, and scooped up the ground ball. On a fast-break, Bickley took the ball upfield and passed it to Frank Granara '08 who was able to create a three-on-two advantage against Bowdoin's defense. Granara then passed it to a wide-open Cabrera who one-timed it for the game winner.

Looking ahead, the Panthers hope to continue their NESCAC success as they host Trinity this Saturday at 1 p.m. and Williams on Wednesday. If the Panthers can play like they did in the first half on Saturday, the sky's the limit.

By Jeff Patterson, Staff Writer

1	Position in the NESCAC standings for the lacrosse teams and the baseball team
2	Game winning hits for #2 Joe Ramoin in the doubleheader sweep of Tufts Saturday
3	Runs scored by the softball team in the bottom of the 10th to beat Wesleyan 5-4
4	Goals scored by # 4 Kim Walker, in a four-goal lacrosse win (13-9) over Bates
5	Two-out runs scored by the baseball team in the bottom of the seventh to force extra innings and an eventual win against Tufts
6	Wins in six games for Middlebury teams after the end of regulation this spring: baseball (3-0), men's lax (2-0) and softball (1-0)

Taking no prisoners



Albert Bitici

Taking aim again, Amanda Smith '08 lets fly with another rocket. The offensive-minded sophomore has played a key role in six straight wins.

INSIDE THE LOCKER ROOM

Brittany Burke '08 hurls the truth our

Burke currently has a 6-3 record with a 2.20 ERA this season for the Middlebury softball team.

***The Campus:* Why did you start playing softball?**

Brittany Burke: My sister played it when I was little. And so, I wanted to be like her. And my dad played with her, so I would always just go out into the backyard and play with them.

***TC:* When did you first start playing?**

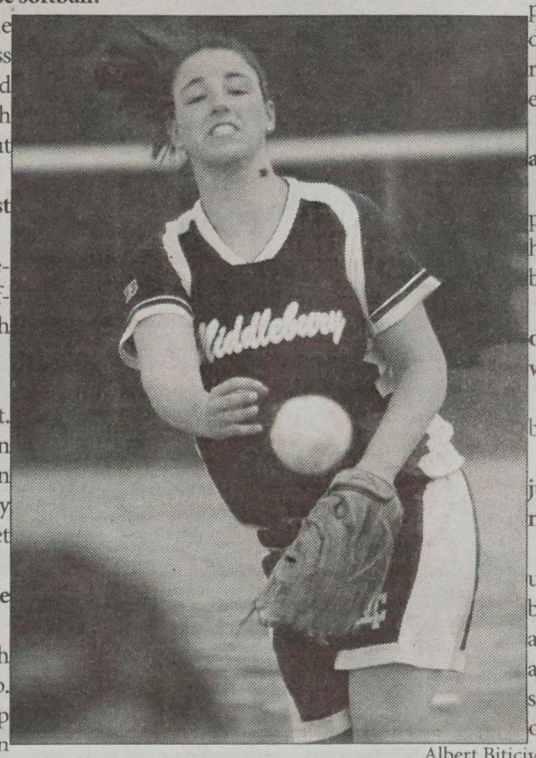
BB: I didn't play tee-ball so I must have started in like fourth grade, actually playing on a team so whenever, however old I was then.

***TC:* Do you play any other sports?**

BB: I played field hockey and basketball in high school but not anymore.

***TC:* So why did you choose softball?**

BB: Um, it was just the one I started with the earliest. I guess I loved it the most and I played it the most throughout high school so it was my big sport out of all three.



Albert Bitici

***TC:* What is your best pitch?**

BB: My change-up, just because it really keeps batters off-balance and it's a very hard pitch to hit, so I like using it.

***TC:* Any superstitions?**

BB: I don't, I really don't. I'm not a superstitious person — I don't step on the lines on the field — but I don't have any like, anything I need to be... get done, stuff like that.

***TC:* How do you psyche yourself up for a game?**

BB: I guess just being with the team is what psyches me up. It's listening to our warm-up mix and stuff, there's a certain song that I love to have on before the games. Um, but just being with the team, and I usually pitch the second game so I'm pretty psyched up from the first game and ready to go for mine.

***TC:* What's the biggest advantage of being an athlete at Middlebury?**

BB: I would say the biggest advantage is definitely the team, having a team community. The girls on my team are definitely my best friends, like my best girlfriends on campus, and having that group of people you can go to and be with everyday, you can just get outside with and blow off energy and also just have that solid base of friends is huge.

***TC:* Is it hard to balance playing a sport with other aspects of life at Middlebury?**

BB: I don't think so. I think I'm used to always having something to do, somewhere to be, um, to practice. It's definitely a demanding thing to pitch everyday and stuff like that to make sure that, even when our team has days off, a lot of the time I'll have to pitch. So it's definitely a little bit more time consuming but that it fits in pretty easily, like there's a time I would want to be outside or working out anyway so it fits in pretty easily with the day.

***TC:* Who is the funniest person on the team?**

BB: [Laughs] There are so many. I would say the most outrageous…I don't know. I would say Ellen Sargent ['07] is the funniest person on the team for me.

***TC:* Who is the most intense?**

BB: I would say that Lauren Battaglia ['06] is the most. On the field, she's the most intense. She's our catcher so she's the one who's sort of out there running everything and it's not through anything — she just sort of controls everything — not through like being really vocal or anything, just her presence on the field is very intense.

***TC:* What's your best softball moment?**

BB: Um, I don't know. I guess this season… I mean I've loved all the moments but this Saturday, coming through and winning both games when we were down was huge. But I would say my favorite moment this season was watching our rookie, Amelia Magistrali, hitting her home run over the fence 'cause we talk about how that's — we have such a big field and we always talk about how we really want… the seniors have always talked about how they really want to put one over the fence and only one — two people in our whole history had down it before and one of our rookies did it, so that was really exciting.

***TC:* Is the Middlebury field a pitcher's park?**

BB: [Laughs] It's a pitcher's park, even though I've had a home run hit off me on our field, but it is a pitcher's park.

***TC:* If you could change one thing about the sport, what would it be?**

BB: I don't know, I've never been asked this before.

***TC:* Is there some rule you just hate or would like to see modified?**

BB: I would like to say bad umpires, I would like to change bad umpires. But, um, there aren't any rules that I hate. Being a pitcher I get really nervous, I see some fields are smaller than others so I'm like 'Oh, someone will definitely poke one over the fence on this field' or something like that, but there are no rules or anything I would change, I don't think. I love it the way it is.

***TC:* Have you ever argued with an umpire?**

BB: Nope. I'm not an argumentative… I'm one of those people that stays out of it. There's been many times when I could have.

***TC:* Do you have any nicknames?**

BB: They call me 'Burky' on the field. It's not really that exciting.

***TC:* What is the one thing you want to do before you graduate?**

BB: [Pauses] I'd like to perform, like onstage in something, singing. Singing was a big part of my life in high school and I don't really do it here so I would like to be able to sing in some way in some form, um, at school.

***TC:* What is one sporting event you want to go to?**

BB: Yankees-Red Sox. [Laughs]

***TC:* Playoffs or just regular season?**

BB: I've just never been at a game where they've played each other, so I'd love to be at Fenway.

***TC:* So you're a Red Sox fan?**

BB: Yup. I don't want to be in the Bronx.

***TC:* Will they win the World Series this year?**

BB: Um, yes, yes they will.

***TC:* Even without Johnny Damon?**

BB: Even without Johnny Damon. Good riddance!

— Zamir Ahmed, Sports Editor

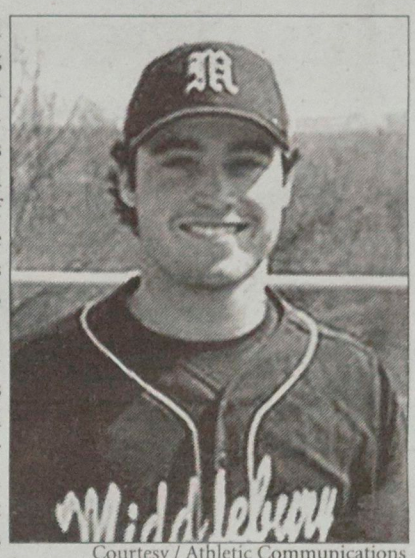
PANTHER SCOREBOARD

Date	Sport	Vs.	Result	Comments
April 18	Baseball	Skidmore	21-11	Ramoin '06 ties NCAA-record with four doubles in ninth straight win.
April 15	W Lacrosse	Bates	13-9	Walker '07 leads team with four goals; takes season tally to 18.
April 15	Softball	Wesleyan	5-4	Battaglia '06 goes 3-5 as Panthers win in 10 innings.
April 15	M Tennis	Trinity	6-1	Scott '07 and Beilin '06 win 8-0 as Midd routs Bantams.
April 15	W Tennis	Williams	5-4	Berck '08 wins 6-4, 6-2 to seal huge win for Panthers.
April 15	Track & Field	Panther Invite	1st Place	Brenes '09 wins two field and one running event at home meet.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BY ZAMIR AHMED, M MCCANN & RYAN W. REESE

Lanahan '08 earns POTW



Courtesy / Athletic Communications

As the Middlebury baseball season has come into full swing in the past few weeks, so has John Lanahan '08. This past week Lanahan was dominant in games against Massachusetts College and Tufts University. Over a course of five games, the sophomore made a mockery of opposing pitchers as he collected nine hits in just 16 at-bats.

This .562 batting average included highlights like three triples and a homerun. Along with all these rips, Lanahan scored four runs and knocked home a dozen others over the course of the last week. His on-base percentage was an astonishing .600 while his slugging percentage was an even more impressive .938.

All of this offensive output led to the naming of Lanahan as the NESCAC Player of the Week. The native of Jacksonville, Fla., along with the rest of the Panthers, will look to continue their current winning ways when they encounter Amherst over the weekend. The Panthers (13-5) are currently in first place in the NESCAC's Western Division and Amherst (14-7) is following closely behind. With playoff implications in the air, this weekend's games promise to be just as exciting and intense as last weekend's nailbiters against the Jumbos from Tufts.

Search for new AD heats up

The search for a new Director of Athletics has been narrowed down to four finalists, with a decision expected to come by early May. The search was sparked by the upcoming retirement of Russ Reilly after nine years on the job and 29 years at the College.

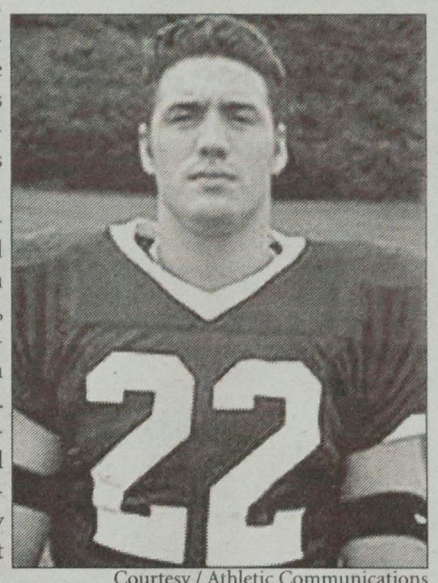
The nationwide hunt began almost three months ago with between 75-100 applicants. A search committee of Dean of Faculty Susan Campbell, Dean of the College Tim Spears, Professor of Computer Science Bob Martin, Associate Professor of History Kathryn Morse, Women's Lacrosse Coach Missy Foote, Football Coach Bob Ritter and Lacey Hebert '06, captain of the women's basketball team, narrowed the field down to eight candidates over the next two months. The committee conducted off-campus interviews of the eight applicants before cutting the field in half. Two of the four finalists visited the campus last week, taking part in two-day interviews, with the other two finalists expected to visit the College this week.

In addition to the challenge of making already successful athletic programs more successful, the new Director of Athletics will also face challenges involving Title IX, building relationships with Middlebury's strong coaching staff and finding a balance between athletics and academics at the College.

N.F.F. honors Armstrong '06

The Vermont Chapter of the National Football Foundation (NFF) recently announced that Middlebury's Ryan Armstrong '06 has been named a 2006 Vermont Collegiate Scholar-Athlete. The senior will graduate in May with a major in American Civilization, but not before being honored at an awards banquet at Middlebury College on May 7.

Armstrong completed four years on the football team, appearing as wide receiver, running back and full back during his time on the team. He finished his career with 505 receiving yards from 58 receptions, including five touchdowns. Three of those touchdowns came in his final year where he finished second in receptions with 27 catches for 220 yards.



Courtesy / Athletic Communications

Armstrong's sporting prowess is not limited to the football field either. A captain and an outfielder on the baseball team, he broke the single season batting average record last year, with an incredible .495 on the season. This season also marks Armstrong's fourth on the baseball team, illustrating his phenomenal dedication to Middlebury athletics throughout his career at the College.

Unsung Hero of the Week

Michele Bergofsky '06 (Women's lax)
The attacker dished out four assists in the Panthers' 13-9 win over Bates.

BOSTON MARATHON | **PATTERSON '06 AND JOLINK '06 TACKLE GRUELING CHALLENGE** | 25

MEN'S LACROSSE | **PANTHERS TRIUMPH IN DRAMATIC OVERTIME WIN** | 26

GAMES TO WATCH

WOMEN'S LACROSSE
VS. WESLEYAN
APRIL 22 | 11 A.M.

BASEBALL
VS. AMHERST
APRIL 21 & 22

campus sports

THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2006

Rugby continues long tradition of dominance

By Robbie de Picciotto
Staff Writer

Rugby is played at Middlebury during both the fall and spring seasons, but the intensity differs greatly between the two. According to Alexander White '09, "The actual results of our spring games have little significance beyond pure pride. People are a bit more laid back and we do not always have our best players at practice." Practices during the fall season are very strict and focused, whereas the spring season is treated as a time to enjoy the game and improve while having a good time.

After returning to campus from spring break, the Middlebury College men's club rugby team jumped right into their season. In the spring opener on April 1, the men traveled to Yale for a challenging first match. The Yale squad had already competed in seven games and also gone on a spring break trip to South America. The Middlebury team had a mere four days of outside practice under its belt, but according to captain Matt Volz '07, "We came out and gave them a run for their money." The team played well and set a positive tone for the remainder of their season, losing by only eight, with a score of 27-19, to the fitter and more experienced Yale team.

The men's team had more success on April 15 against Colgate, putting together a remarkable second half to pull out a two point victory, 14-12. On this chilly Saturday, the visiting Middlebury Panthers got down 12-0 at halftime, but fought their way back at the end of the game to score 14 unanswered points. Volz stated, "We went into the game with a completely different team than the previous weekend against Yale, due to injuries and other commitments. We were a bit hesitant in the beginning and Colgate took advantage of that." However, he continued, the team "rallied and played really well for the last few minutes." Trey Stewart '09 completed a solid drive with a tri and Craig Wilson '07.5 followed up with the conversion. Middlebury then received the ensuing kick-off and steadily moved up field. On the final play of the game, Volz '07 scored the game tying try. For a second time on the day, Wilson was successful on the conversion, which clinched the Middlebury victory as time expired.

During the Williams Tournament last weekend, the Middlebury men's team came away with a win and a loss. They beat Williams in the first game, but did not fare as well in the second game against UVM. Volz commented, "Fitness was definitely an issue that hurt us. We were slow to the rucks and we gave up the ball way too much. UVM played a great game. They simply out-played us and you have to give them credit for the win." The team had a lot of fun at Williams and Middlebury's younger players finished up the weekend with a good amount of game experience.

Vlad Lodoaba

The Panthers began their spring season with wins against Yale and Williams before a defeat to UVM at the Williams tournament.

Volz and his teammates remain excited for this spring season. "Our main goal is to teach new guys how to play and also to prepare for the fall. As far as wins and losses go, I don't think we have any specific goals for the spring. I wish we had beaten Yale and UVM but I think we've had a good time playing. Some news guys have gotten a chance to see how the game works, and that's what's most important in the spring. In the fall, the attitude is much different--with the goal to win the Northeast Tournament and go to the National Tournament."

The club rugby team has experienced great success in the past and looks forward to maintaining a high level of play this season. Despite the fact that the team is club and not varsity, the schedule continues to feature opponents from larger schools that place greater emphasis on the sport of rugby. Next Saturday, April 22, rugby will travel to play against local rival St. Michael's, and the team has a match every Saturday up through May 13.

Men struggle to ninth place at Skidmore Invite

Harrison Bane '08 and George Baumann '08 lead Midd with two-day total of

By Jake Cohen
Staff Writer

The men's and women's Middlebury golf teams constantly push the threshold of success. At each tournament, the Panthers struggle through unpredictable elements, streaky players and challenging courses. But unique to these golf teams is the brevity of their seasons. This spring, the men's and women's teams will only play five tournaments each, compared to the 30-game hockey season and the 13-game lacrosse season. Thus, every competition is always tense, always important and a rare chance for triumph. Nevertheless, the Panther squads have thrived thus far and are poised for continued success.

The women's golf team has achieved unbelievable accomplishments this season. First and foremost, the girls have been able to earn a fifth place national ranking with only four players — usually a team is five players and the best four scores are counted. But for this Panther squad, there is literally no room for error. Captain Heather Gallagher '07 isn't phased by the lack of extra players. "Having only four players is very good for our golf and our team cohesion — every shot for every player counts." The women's team is also employing a new practice strategy this season: win it in and around the greens. Led by Coach Bill Beany, the Panthers are paying particular attention to their short game. After all, a wise golfer once said, "Drive for show, putt for dough."

The women finished seventh overall at the Jekyll Island tournament over spring break in Georgia. Gallagher lead the team with a three-day total of 254, tying her for 19th place overall. First-year Julie Ellenberger finished with a 256, followed by senior Sally Hartman (258) and sophomore Karen Levin (262). Coach Beany hopes to lead his squad to victory against primary competitors like Mount Holyoke, St. Lawrence and Wellesley College in future competitions. The team looks forward to the tournament at Amherst College this weekend as an opportunity to once more rise above the field. Junior twins Allison and

SEE GOLFERS, PAGE 25

Courtesy / Jeff Patterson

Chad Bellmare '06 shot a two-day total of 165 at the Skidmore Invitational. The men's golf team heads to Williams on April 22.